

❖ SCENE

❖ INSIDE

HEAVY METAL
Sculptor Jim
Smith on iron
and rust **B1**

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Your guide to
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INSERT

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MAD RIVER UNION

VOL. 2, No. 26 ❖ 16 PAGES ❖ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015 ❖ EST. 2013 ❖ \$1

Advocacy group heavily criticized

Directors reject support for 'Voices'

Jack Durham
MAD RIVER UNION

MANILA – A new group that has an ambitious plan to improve communications and services on the Samoa Peninsula is off to a rocky start.

Called Voices of the Peninsula Advocacy Group (Voices), the fledgling organization asked the Manila Community Services District Board (Manila CSD) of Directors on March 19 for a letter of support for a grant application. Voices is seeking about \$6,000 a year for two years from the United Labor Health Foundation to pay for a part-time project director and other expenses involved in launching the advocacy group.

More than 30 people – a large turnout for the sandy outpost – filled a room at the Manila Community Center to hear the request.

But after listening to searing public opposition to Voices, a divided Manila CSD board voted 3-2 against a letter of support. Voices was described as a “splinter group” and was criticized for being secretive

VOICES ❖ A5

Shapeshifting smoking ban

Kevin L. Hoover
MAD RIVER UNION

ARCATA CITY HALL – The City Council came to order in typically languid fashion last week. With perhaps two dozen citizens waiting for them in Council Chamber, Councilmembers Paul Pitino and Sofia Periera drifted

in, then Mayor Michael Winkler and finally, Councilmember Mark Wheelley.

A few seconds before 6:08 p.m. and with the usual lack of explanation for the delay to the waiting public, Winkler called the meeting to order.

The four-person City Council, with Coun-

cilmember Susan Ornelas absent, went on to approve an ordinance it isn't thrilled about, and whose features it will start tinkering with and changing even before it goes into effect next month. If all goes according to plan, Arcata will have been governed by three separate

SMOKING ❖ A4



HBE BABES
ABORNING



EAGLE ANTICS The Humboldt Bay Eagle Nest first egg of the season was laid Tuesday afternoon, March 17, and the second Friday, March 20. Known by her “wonky feather,” Mrs. Humboldt Bay Eagle (HBE) laid her eggs on March 16 and 19 over the last few years, so she's right on schedule. The blessed events sent the HBEs' many followers swooning and clucking as they anticipated another cycle of eaglet hatching and raising as in past years. Top left, Mr. HBE co-parents while Mrs. is out for a jaunt. Top right, Mr. and Mrs. HBE. Bottom left, a call for “room service.” Middle, Mr. HBE brings home a fish. Right, a panoramic view of the couple's Bayside-area nest. The eggs will be known as E1 and E2 until the Naming Contest takes place. More photos on the HBE Facebook page; watch the eagle action on the Institute for Wildlife Studies' Live Eagle Nest Cams at iws.org/hbe.html.

SCREEN GRABS COURTESY NANCY HENDERSON, JAN MASTERS AND MONIKA WUERNER-SIMONIS | HBE

Man killed in collision on Hwy. 101

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

ARCATA - A 30-year-old Eureka man died Saturday morning, March 21, after he crashed his truck, got out of the vehicle and then was struck by another vehicle on U.S. Highway 101.

The Eureka man, Mitchell Eldon Ford, was driving a 1989 Chevrolet southbound on U.S. Highway 101 south of Samoa Boulevard at about 6:38 a.m. when he lost control and collided with the center divider. The Chevrolet traveled over the double center divider guardrails and came to rest in the No. 1 northbound lane. After the Chevrolet came to rest, Ford exited the driver's seat and stood in close proximity to the Chevrolet.

At 6:40 a.m., 30-year-old Crystal Marie Sanders of Fortuna was driving a 2000 Toyota northbound on the highway in the No. 1 lane, and struck the Chevrolet and Ford.

This second collision resulted in major injuries to Ford and minor injuries to Sanders. Ford was trans-

FATAL ❖ A5

Ships bypass bay due to shoaling



SILT SUCKER The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge deepens the harbor entrance on a previous visit to Humboldt Bay. Harbor officials are hoping it returns in July.

PHOTO BY MATT FILAR | UNION

Jack Durham
MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT BAY – With shoaling at the entrance to Humboldt Bay hampering shipping, local officials are meeting this week with representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss dredging.

Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District Executive Director Jack Crider and First District Supervisor Rex Bohn

SHOALING ❖ A5

Bicycle Hub getting helpful sign



ON THE SCENE Transportation Safety Committee Chair Melanie Williams, Public Works Director Doby Class and Deputy Public Works Director Netra Khatri at 10th and I streets.

KLH | UNION

Kevin L. Hoover
MAD RIVER UNION

ARCATA – Arcata's Transportation Safety Committee met in the thick of a raging controversy over the new non-roundabout art fixture in the intersection of 10th and I streets last week, most of its deliberations done with only members and city staff present.

Meanwhile, confusion persisted as to how to properly navigate the intersection. A new sign will advise motorists to simply drive straight through, and not skirt the circle. Unfortunately, only pedestrians will be able to read it.

The kerfuffle compelled all of two citizens to give constructive direction

CIRCLE ❖ A5

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Full steam ahead

Timber Heritage Association close to establishing timber and rail museum

John Ross Ferrara
MAD RIVER UNION

SAMOA – Humboldt County is home to the oldest railroad roundhouse in California, and due to the efforts of The Timber Heritage Association, the Samoa property may be established as a timber and rail museum in the near future.

After seven years of renting the roundhouse property, the volunteer group signed an option agreement with the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District in early March, which allows for the purchase of the Samoa shop complex property for \$5. However, the association must first meet agreement provisions, which require a series of environmental studies and a property line revision.

Heritage Association board member Michael Kellogg said the project is an effort to preserve local history, as well as create an attraction for people who travel through Humboldt County.

“Its an extremely historic site. We have a roundhouse from 1893, eight his-



THE ROUNDHOUSE, above, is the oldest in California. The second oldest is in Jamestown, Calif. Top, Arcata & Mad River Railroad locomotive No. 7, built in 1918.

PHOTOS BY JOHN ROSS FERRARA | UNION

torical steam locomotives, a boiler house and a car shed,” Kellogg said. “Every railroad had numerous roundhouses during that era, but there’s only four left in California and we have the oldest.”

Humboldt Bay Harbor Recreation and Conservations District Executive Director Jack Crider said completing the provisions should be inexpensive and he predicts the association could meet its contractual agreements within a year.

“Rezoning the property should be very simple and the Phase 1 environmental work has already been done, which identified some potential concerns,” Crider

said. However, North Coast District Coastal Commission District Manager Bob Merrill said there are some concerns with how the property will be zoned. The property adjacent to the Samoa Cookhouse has access to relatively deep water, which makes it a prime location for shipping and docking.

“That general area is zoned for coastal dependent industry and port usage. Were not opposed to the museum, but there’s some questions if it’s consistent with the zoning,” Merrill said. “It will probably be supportable under the Coastal Act. The act gives priority to coastal

dependent industry. However, it also gives priority to visitor survey usage. We would like both uses to co-exist.”

Before any more progress can be made, a Phase 2 Environmental Assessment must be completed, which requires a check for lead based paint and the removal of all cement asbestos board from the property.

“There’s not much of it and it’s very obvious where it’s at. We just want to make sure they have a safe environment for the public to enjoy the facility,” Crider said. “Once they’ve done those basic things they can exercise their right to purchase the property.”



Pulp mill developments

Benjamin Fordham
MAD RIVER UNION

SAMOA – The Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (HBHRCD) is continuing to find tenants for the former Samoa pulp mill site.

At its Feb. 27 meeting, the harbor district’s commission approved a 90-day exclusive right to negotiate agreement with Sustainable World Solutions, a group that has plans for an aquaponics facility at the site. Aquaponics is a system of food production in which fish or other animal byproducts are broken down by bacteria and used to feed plants grown in soilless mediums.

At the same meeting, the commission also heard a proposal from Katie Kelley of Bodega Bay’s Athena Greene LLC, which is also interested in putting an aquaponics and biochar operation at the site. The site already has one aquaculture tenant, the Shelton, Wash.-based Taylor Shellfish. The pulp mill site is well-suited for aquaponics and aquaculture because the mill used large quantities of water for the pulping process and has an ample supply line.

“There’s a fairly large hobby segment in California,” said Commissioner Greg Dale of the aquaponics projects. “It’s a very sustainable method of farming.”

Dale also acknowledged the challenges associated with repurposing the site, saying “It’s going to be hard to replace an economic driver like the pulp mill.” But, he said, the current proposed uses should have a lesser impact on the environment than the pulp mill.

Commissioner Patrick Higgins said he sees “enormous potential” for aquaculture at the site thanks in part to Humboldt Bay’s high water health certification. “I think the prospects for large scale use of the old pulp mill site by aquaculture industry is very high,” he said.

During its March 13 meeting, the harbor district commission also approved a proposal from Stone Cold Chillin, a retail ice producer, to put an ice-making facility at the site. The company’s sales representative, Joseph Thompson, told the commission that there is a need for ice production locally, and said “We’re really excited to jump into that market with both feet.”

Commission mulls Samoa trail support

The commission also considered a proposal to take on maintenance responsibilities for a proposed trail system in the town of Samoa. Commissioner Richard Marks said that he thought the commission could come up with some positive results.

Some members of the public in attendance, however, questioned the wisdom of the district’s involvement. Karen Brooks questioned why the trail maintenance should come under the district’s purview. “I think this project is a shiny object,” she said. “I would totally challenge that this is a fit with the harbor district.”

Brooks also warned the commission about possible future maintenance costs. “I think you need to look long and hard and close (at this project),” she said. “The maintenance is going to be a nightmare.”

Susan Penn, who said she has been involved with Eureka’s Hiksharai Trail, echoed Brooks’ concerns about maintenance costs. “I know how much maintenance is involved with that,” she said. Penn also questioned why the issue was being fast-tracked by the district.

Tidal wetlands restoration project

The commission also accepted a permit filing by Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge for White Slough Tidal Wetlands Restoration Project.

The project would use up to 200,000 cubic yards of fill to build three earthen tidal ridges and four basins. Three tidal gates would also be removed. The project is now open to a 30-day public comment period, and the document can be viewed on the district’s website.

Commissioner Patrick Higgins expressed interest in the possibility of using dredge sediment from the bay for the fill material. He also encouraged members of the public to visit the refuge, saying “The bird life down there in that part of the bay is world-class.”

The HBHRCD can be reached at (707) 443-0801 or by visiting humboldtбай.org.

Seaside Village dreams big when brainstorming

Benjamin Fordham
MAD RIVER UNION

TRINIDAD – Improving bicycle and pedestrian safety, beautifying the city’s entrance and providing social services were among the ideas tossed out during a public brainstorming session on city goals March 9 in the Seaside Village.

The Trinidad City Council invited the public to the community meeting in an effort to engage local citizens in the creation of next year’s budget.

Mayor Julie Fulkerson estimated that about 100 people attended the meeting, which was facilitated by local community organizers Heather Equinoss and Keytra Meyer. “It’s always important to ask people in the community what’s important to them,” Fulkerson said.

After a brief introduction, the public was asked to write down and post ideas under the categories of community engagement and relationship building, environmental sustainability, fiscal stability, infrastructure, safety and community character.

Fulkerson said she was pleased with the interactive format of the meeting. “There was more flexibility in the two-hour input session,” she said. “I think ideas emerge in a different way.”

“I have felt for some time that it would be good to have more public input sessions that are not geared toward a tight agenda,” Fulkerson said.

Some of the ideas proposed included beautifying the town’s entrance, increasing bike and pedestrian safety, preparing for climate change, providing homeless and mental health services and honoring indigenous peoples and sacred sites.

The next step will be for Equinoss to compile the notes into a report to the city, which will be available online on the city’s website and at the City Clerk’s office.

City Manager Dan Berman will then present the findings to the Trinidad City Council, tentatively at its next meeting on April 8. At that time, the council may decide which ideas are feasible and can be worked into

the city’s budget.

“It will be important to find partners to work on some of the projects,” Fulkerson said.

Electric vehicle charging

During the council’s meeting March 11, it received an update from the Redwood Coast Energy Authority, which plans on adding an electric vehicle charging station in Saunders Park.

“The 95570 ZIP code has 20 of the electric or hybrid cars registered in Humboldt... a very high percentage,” Fulkerson said. “I bet we will have more soon.”

The council also amended an agreement with GHD Engineers for the new water treatment plant on Luffenholtz Creek, which supplies the city’s water, and heard from a Trinidad resident who brought the attention of the council to her efforts to reduce commercial crabbing waste and debris from washing up into local tide pools.

The Trinidad City Clerk’s office can be reached at (707) 677-0223, or by visiting trinidad.ca.gov.

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Headwaters fund losing money

Daniel Mintz
MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT – The county’s Headwaters Fund has lost money since its inception and now county supervisors have been briefed on strategies to increase its total. The fund’s challenges were outlined in an annual report presented to the Board of Supervisors at its March 17 meeting. The fund totaled \$18.4 million when it was created in 2003 and has dropped to \$16.5 million as of the last fiscal year.

That is only \$300,000 above a floor set by supervisors last year, when the fund totaled \$17.4 million.



Headwaters Fund Executive Director Nicole Morrow outlined a series of recommendations geared to regenerating the fund’s total. The new strategy de-emphasizes grants and focuses on loans.

Morrow added that \$7 million has been transferred into an investment fund managed by the county treasurer.

Headwaters Board Chair Buzz Webb said that since 2003, over \$18 million in Headwaters Fund grants and loans have been dispersed. The fund’s first loan losses were seen in 2009, he continued, and to date, three percent of the total loaned – \$244,000 – has been lost due to defaults.

Large-scale infrastructure loans have been available through the Community Investment Fund, but Webb said a two-year hold is in effect to promote the fund’s growth.

A Revolving Loan Fund is still active, however, and Webb said \$700,500 was loaned out in the last fiscal year.

The Open Door Clinic Network received a \$500,000 loan to assist the development of a health care center in Arcata similar to the Eureka Health and Wellness Center, which also got a Headwaters loan.

An Initiative Fund addresses economic and business needs and one of its investments is in redwood marketing. The logging industry has also contributed to a marketing effort that aims to decrease the popularity of plastic composite decking by promoting redwood as a superior product.

Gary Rynearson of the Green Diamond timber company said redwood is gaining in the marketplace. He added that despite mill closures, harvest rates have not let up.

“Our harvest rates have not changed – although we’ve made some difficult decisions,” Rynearson said, referring to the closures of the company’s Korbel mill and its Brianard remanufacturing facility on Humboldt Bay.

He added that the company’s timber is still being milled here. “The logs are going to the local market,” he said. “With the loss of production at our mills, other mills have picked up that harvest.”

One of the mills that has taken on the company’s logs is Humboldt Redwood Company’s Scotia mill, which was recently upgraded.

Though Headwaters grants have been minimized, some have been awarded.

The annual report included presentations on grants to the Humboldt/Del Norte Film Commission for organizing a tour for Hollywood film location scouts, assisting Humboldt Made food product manufacturers with marketing and networking and helping dairy producers comply with new water quality rules.

County approves contract for new psych staff

Daniel Mintz
MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT – Facing the loss of psychiatric services staff in the county’s Mental Health Branch, the Board of Supervisors has approved a one-year contract with a firm that recruits and hires psychiatrists.

The \$3.5 million contract with the Traditions Behavioral Health firm was unanimously approved at the March 17 supervisors meeting. Traditions will recruit and hire 5.6 full-time equivalent psychiatrists who will work for the county and live here.

A sudden departure of psychiatrists from the Mental Health Branch has been attributed by those who have resigned to poor management and failure to maintain staffing levels. But Department of Health and Human Services Director Phil Crandall said that many rural counties are dealing with staff shortages.

Crandall told supervisors that a “surge” of county Medi-Cal recipients has challenged staffing capacity.

He added that with other avenues of opportunity opening up in prisons and in the Veterans Administration, psychiatric specialists have left county work at a pace recruitment efforts can’t keep up with.

“We have been working very hard over the past several years with the Department of Human Resources and we just have not been able to recruit and retain our psychiatric services at

the rate that we’re losing them, so it’s not for lack of trying,” Crandall said.

Contracting with Traditions will not increase staffing costs and brings the branch to 6.4 full-time equivalent psychiatrists, he continued.

Asked about the long-term approach to Mental Health staffing, Crandall said the Affordable Care Act and managed care are the “new models” in an evolving health care environment. “For the next one to three years, if the contract relationship is good, we would retain that and then we would see a migration to another form of mental health provision that would be in partnership with the health care systems and managed care entities,” he continued.

Supervisors at times alluded to the emergency situation from which the contract proposal emerged. “I’m sorry we got this far along before we realized we’re in crisis stage,” said Supervisor Rex Bohn.

Board Chair Estelle Fennell said she was “absolutely appalled” that the board was not apprised of the staffing challenges sooner.

But the idea of contracting with Traditions was met with optimism and supervisors were pleased to hear that its doctors will live in Humboldt and not be what was termed as “rent-a-docs.”

Asked how long it will take to stabilize the staffing situation, Dr. Gary Hayes, Tradition’s owner and found-

er, said the early stage will be the most challenging, but his firm has dealt with other difficult situations.

He said Traditions contracted with the San Leandro-based John George Psychiatric Pavilion facility a year after a physician had been murdered there.

“It was considered to be catastrophically difficult and we were told we wouldn’t be able to get it done and we got it done – we gravitate toward the more challenging situations,” Hayes continued.

He said that when his firm starts its county contract on April 10, “We will probably be rocky to start out with” due to short notice. But he added that by this time next year, “It will be stable... you’ll forget all about us, most likely.”

During public comments, board members of the county’s National Alliance on Mental Illness chapter said they are relieved the staffing situation has been dealt with quickly. They highlighted staff safety as a concern and recommended that the county implement a means of evaluating safety risks.

Traditions contracted with the county once before, in 1999, but was phased out after two years. Supervisors and staff credited the firm for its willingness to start work quickly. Fennell summarized the reaction to the contract by saying, “I’m optimistic about what it can do for us.”

Fund to help local kids get school essentials

HUMBOLDT AREA FUND

HUMBOLDT – Thanks to local Eureka resident Michael Saint Clair, Humboldt County youth in need will have access to proper school supplies. The Michael, Fran & Opal Saint Clair Fund was recently established as a new fund with Humboldt Area Foundation with \$20,000 to make life simpler for children.

The fund will benefit local first-through fifth-graders in need of essential supplies for school including warm jackets, glasses and bicycle helmets. The fund will honor Saint Clair’s past wives Fran and Opal.

Saint Clair grew up in Alton, one of seven brothers and sisters. He attended both elementary and high school in Fortuna. Attending school in tattered clothing, worn shoes, and



NEW FUND Local donor Michael Saint Clair, left, with Chris Wiff, Humboldt Area Foundation’s director of Donor Services and Planned Giving. SUBMITTED PHOTO

eating from a small sack lunch that left his stomach grumbling are all painful memories that remain with Saint Clair to this day.

Saint Clair is a former

Marine and has worked in almost every lumber company in Humboldt County. After his service in Vietnam, he traveled the country, and accidentally began

what would be a 23-year career as a bartender.

Saint Clair met his wife Opal at the Gilded Rose in Loleta and tells stories of their non-stop adventures including abalone diving, fishing and long road trips.

After Opal’s passing, Saint Clair met his wife Fran. Fran held a special place in Saint Clair’s heart and was taken away too soon before their one-year wedding anniversary.

Although Saint Clair’s life is full of difficult chapters, he ignites the room with positivity and witty jokes.

He encourages anyone who wants to join him in providing school supplies for kids to contribute to the Michael, Fran & Opal Saint Clair Fund by contacting Humboldt Area Foundation at (707) 442-2993.

Smoking | New law to be replaced after it’s passed

❖ FROM A1

smoking laws this year.

On March 4, the council introduced Ordinance 1451, devised by Police Chief Tom Chapman. It extends Arcata’s current downtown smoking ban city-wide, including all unenclosed public thoroughfares. An exception would allow smoking in most places as long as the smoker were “actively passing through” the area.

As described in the ordinance, smoking will still be totally illegal on the Plaza, at the transit center, near entrances, in service lines and at other locations.

The council was responding to urgent pleas for a change in the current smoking law by residents of the Ninth and J streets neighborhood. Smokers presently congregate there, on the boundary of the downtown anti-smoking zone, and commit various annoying behaviors.

Noticeably absent from this and the last council meeting were any of the public health and anti-smoking advocates who had turned out to support the smoking ban when it was in the works.

By introducing the new ordinance two weeks ago, the council took the first step to revising the law by eliminating the downtown boundary and ending the motivation for smokers to sit on its edge in the troubled neighborhood.

The council had commanded Chapman to identify some designated smoking areas near the Plaza and transit center. He had also tried to work out some “time-of-use” restrictions, scaling smoking back or allowing it in some places at certain times of day. Chapman asked the council for another month to get all that done, his ideas to be aired at the council’s April 15 meeting.

Some councilmembers had expressed doubts about the enforceability of the ordinance’s “actively passing through” provision. They also insisted on identification and designation of smoker sanctuaries that aren’t included in it.

Councilmember Mark Wheelley wanted to table the whole matter until the revised anti-smoking concept was mature, and not pass a “half-baked” ordinance.

City Attorney Nancy Diamond predicted that with all the new data and comment coming in on April 15, the council is going to need more time to take it all in and draft

appropriate language.

The council seemed confused about its process and the implementation of the revisions it was formulating. Twice, Diamond reminded the council that any changes would be defined in a subsequent, superseding ordinance to the one they were about to approve.

Since the next ordinance might not become law until June, most of the councilmembers agreed that something had to be done immediately for the sake of the suffering J Street neighbors, many of whom were in attendance.

Wheelley said he would go along with the will of the council majority and vote for the ordinance.

At one point, Mayor Michael Winkler asked Chapman why he had reported back to the council on revising the ordinance.

Chapman gently reminded Winkler that the council had directed him to do so two weeks previous.

With that, the council approved the new, obsolete anti-smoking ordinance. It becomes law on April 17.

To summarize: The current anti-smoking law is in effect until April 17. Then, smoking becomes prohibited city-wide, unless you’re in motion and not standing around. Then, another new smoking law will be devised to scale down the ban zone, include smoker sanctuaries and time-of-use restrictions.

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Shoaling | Too shallow

❖ FROM A1

plan to meet with the federal agency at its San Francisco office to determine a schedule for dredging the harbor entrance.

The harbor has already lost a visit from one ship due to the shoaling and will likely lose another before the problem is solved sometime in July.

One ship that was scheduled to dock in the bay and pick up wood chips in February was diverted to Coos Bay, Ore. to get chips from another supplier, according to Crider. The harbor will likely lose another visit before July.

The trouble started last December after a large storm washed sediment down the Eel River and into the ocean. The massive glop then made its way into the middle of the harbor entrance.

After dredging, the harbor usually has a depth of about 48 feet. Last December, before the storm, the depth was 44 feet. It's now at about 33 to 35 feet, Crider said.

The ships that come in and pick up wood chips from California Redwood need a depth of about 37 feet when fully loaded.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was supposed to dredge the harbor this month, but its dredge got caught up in litigation when it was in drydock in Portland, Ore., Crider said.

MOBILE HOME CONFLICTS The McKinleyville Municipal Advisory Committee (McKMAC) will discuss the county's dormant Mobile Home Park Dispute Resolution Committee at its meeting today, March 25. The advisory committee's meeting begins at 6 p.m. at the Azalea Conference Center located at the rear of McKinleyville Middle School. According to the agenda, the McKMAC may make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors about the committee. The committee may be an alternative to rent control, which the McKMAC voted against on Feb. 25. The county's dispute resolution committee was created in 1994, disbanded, then reestablished in 2004.

The committee was again disbanded in 2006. The committee helped mediate complaints when they came from a substantial number of park residents. The committee did not mediate complaints from individuals.

PROPERTY TAX DUE APRIL 10 As was reported in a news release last fall, this year's property tax bills for the 2014-2015 tax year have an error on the second installment stub which states that the delinquent date is "after 12/10/2014" but should read "after 4/10/2015." The correct date (April 10, 2015) is shown in red on the top half of your bill as well as on the back side in item No. 8.

Fatal | Under investigation

❖ FROM A1

ported by ambulance to Mad River Community Hospital, where he was subsequently pronounced deceased. The causes of both collisions remain under investigation.

The California Highway Patrol – Humboldt Area responded to the scene and is conducting the investigation.

Personnel from the Arcata Police Department, Arcata Fire Protection District, Humboldt County Sheriff's Department, Arcata-Mad River Ambulance and the Caltrans also responded to the scene.

As a result of this collision, various lane closures were in effect on both sides of the highway for approximately four hours.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT Local observances of international Take Back the Night are scheduled for Friday, April 10, with opening events slated to begin at 5 p.m. at HSU and continuing at the Arcata Plaza throughout the evening. Take Back The Night is the international 501(c)3 charitable foundation that lobbies against sexual violence in all its forms, with events and activities in some 30 countries worldwide. The Arcata observances are sponsored jointly by the North Coast Rape Crisis Team, and Humboldt State's Women's Resource Center.

Voices | Manila visioning process to begin

❖ FROM A1

and not allowing participation from existing community organizations and residents.

Voter registration, advocacy

According to information submitted to the Manila CSD, Voices wants to conduct surveys of peninsula residents to find out what they want at the Manila Community Center. The group plans to conduct voter registration drives and advocate for footpaths and a safer highway. It plans to create a website, a phone tree and will publish a bi-monthly newsletter to keep people informed and educate them about candidates and government issues.

"Communication is the key to the [sic] raising awareness and engagement in the community," stated a project description submitted to the Manila CSD by Voices.

Although the group wants to improve communication, most peninsula residents had not heard of Voices until it appeared on last week's meeting agenda. The group did not post any information about its own meetings on Next Door Manila, a popular social media website, nor did it send out any press releases to media outlets.

Visioning process

Some residents questioned the timing of the group's request, noting that the town's long-awaited visioning process begins next month.

The Manila CSD will hold a visioning workshop from 1 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 12, and again from 1 to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 26. The workshops will be held at the Manila Community Center, 1611 Peninsula Dr. Residents are invited to attend and share their thoughts on the future of the community. The Manila CSD will use the input to come up with goals.

One woman who spoke at the meeting said that Voices should wait until the community has a chance to express its desires before setting goals, as Voices has already done through its own meetings.

Others questioned whether the district should support a group that has been meeting privately. "I don't know who these people are," one woman told the board.

Group members revealed

Board President John Woolley was able to obtain a list of members of Voices prior to last week's meeting. The members are Manila CSD Director Dendra Dengler, Bev Prosser, Rita Carlson, Brittany Lucas, Susan Opalach, Danielle Muniz and Elizabeth Henry.

Dengler told the board that the members have been holding weekly potlucks at Prosser's home.

'A work in progress'

Prosser, a former employee of the Manila CSD, stressed that Voices is a "work in progress." The group is still organizing and

meeting with different entities. It wants to conduct surveys and get public input.

Prosser repeatedly stated that Voices "wants to be positive" and wants to improve communication.

As for the organization's involvement with the Manila CSD, it plans to "operate independent of, but parallel to," the district, which would have no financial obligations with regard to Voices.

Prosser's past

At times during the meeting, opposition to Voices seemed to center less on the group's goals, and more on Prosser, the group's main spokesperson. Prosser was a district employee until 2008 and ran programs at the Manila Community Center.

Some who spoke at the meeting praised her work, noting that under her leadership, the center was a vibrant facility brimming with activities and programs. Dengler also praised Prosser for organizing community cleanup events that removed mountains of trash from the dunes.

But resident Sandi Schole-Drop described the Manila Community Center as a "disaster" under Prosser's leadership. There were people smoking near children, speeding cars and all sorts of undesirable elements at the center, she said, adding, "It was not a positive place."

Lauren Carman, a teacher at

Redwood Coast Montessori, had similar concerns based on her time volunteering at the center years ago when Prosser was in charge. "It was horrifying, the things I was seeing," Carman said. She was not specific about what she saw.

'Be ashamed'

Voices member Susan Opalach refuted the criticisms of Prosser, with whom she also volunteered. "There are some people who have said some really rude things that aren't even true," Opalach said. "People in this room should be ashamed of themselves," she said before barging out of the room and slamming the door behind her.

Back to the board

When it came time for the board to vote on the letter, Director Salena Kahle urged the board to support Voices.

"What I hear is a lot of fear and assumptions about what this group wants to do," Kahle said.

"It would really show our division if we didn't support an advocacy group," Kahle said.

But Director Joy Dellas would have nothing to do with supporting Voices, which she described as a "splinter group." "They've been meeting virtually in secret," Dellas said.

Dellas reminded the board that there is an election for three open seats on the Manila board in November. Voices, she noted, is an advocacy group that wants to do a voter registration drive.

Woolley had previously asked

whether Voices would be advocating for candidates or causes when doing voter registration drives. Prosser had said that the group would remain neutral when registering voters.

One of the sticking points regarding the letter of support for Woolley was that the district has no say in the Voices organization, which is selecting its own steering committee. Woolley offered up an alternative motion to support the group's grant application but under the condition that the Manila CSD have a seat on its board. But when additional public comment was sought on the motion, there was still strong opposition to supporting the group. Woolley said he could not support his own motion and would be voting against Voices.

The board ultimately voted 3-2 against a letter of support. Voting in favor of Voices were Dengler and Kahle. Woolley, Dellas and Jan Bramlett voted against the letter.

Another approach

Later in the meeting, the board approved a letter to the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA) in support of a proposed one-year "listening" project in which the RCAA would gather public input. Funding for that project would not be available until late this year.

Under the proposal, RCAA would gather ideas and identify the needs of the communities of Manila, Samoa and Fairhaven. If funded, it would be a multi-year project.

Circle | Close calls and near misses at Arcata's new 'Bicycle Hub'

❖ FROM A1

to the city committee empowered to deal with the situation. One showed up, the other sent an email message.

A woman named Lesley said she was excited about the new Bicycle Boulevards and their potential for reducing street congestion at Arcata High School in the morning and afternoon at dropoff and pickup times.

She had hopped on her bike and pedaled downtown to see what she referred to as the "solidarity circle" at 10th and I, where she "almost saw three fatalities."

She said she'd seen a driver attempt to circle the "tire" of the symbolic bike wheel, her vehicle swerving into the path of a woman with two children in the crosswalk. The driver then "smashed up her car" by colliding with the sewer inlet on the northwest corner, then took off down the street. Similar tales of near-misses in the intersection filled the *Union's* website last week.

Another comment sent in via email objected to the confusing *objet d'asphalte art* on grounds that it is dangerous and expensive. The writer wondered how Arcata could afford to spend \$7,500 on street art when potholes riddle city streets.

Committee members responded with support for the circle.

"It's new," said Josh Wolf. "It's change.

It's different. I personally think it's going to be a non-issue."

He likened reaction to the new fixture to the bewilderment with which roundabouts were met on their introduction in 2001, noting that they are now routinely used and non-controversial.

It was noted that Old Town Eureka has three similar intersection circles. However, those circles don't bear a striking resemblance to a mini-roundabout that the Bicycle Hub does as one approaches it. Drivers are clearly reacting to the new fixture as though it is a traffic circle or roundabout.

"I see education as key," said Netra Khatri, deputy director of Public Works.

APD Lt. Ryan Peterson suggesting targeting adjacent I Street businesses with information, rather than "shotgunning it out in the media."

Members suggested more signage on the approaches to the intersection, possibly even one in the middle of the circle, or painted indicators such as arrows on the road surface.

Khatri said no obstruction would be placed in the roadway, as that is a drivable area. "Signage would be much more doable than putting paint in the street," he said.

Committee Chair Melanie Williams wondered whether temporary paint could be useful in roadway indicators, which

could inculcate proper usage in drivers and then wear away once everyone was trained.

Member John Bergenske said that, over time, normal road wear patterns will naturally indicate proper usage. "Wear patterns will burn in, showing the way to drive it," he said.

Williams wanted to know what the actual name of the circle is, for use in the upcoming education campaign. "We need language," she said. "What are we calling it?"

Khatri advised that the proper term is "Bicycle Hub." There was no mention of any "solidarity circle."

Williams suggested formulation of a catchy slogan to impress on drivers to help them use the circle properly. "If we got a campaign phrase and just kept reiterating it until people got used to it," she said, that could do the trick.

Khatri was charged with working on signage. The next day, Khatri said that there aren't any signs equal to the task in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The city can't just invent a custom, unapproved traffic sign due to liability exposure, said Public Works Director Doby Class. "It hasn't gone through state approval," he said of homebrew traffic signs.

So, an interpretive sign for pedestrians will be placed nearby explaining how to

drive through the now-infamous intersection. The city is also making an educational video which it hopes to get online shortly.

Online commenters dismayed by the city's actions tell tales of repeated close calls and near-collisions between drivers who act as a wave, following the curve of the circle.

However, at a City Council study session following the TSC meeting, City Manager Karen Diemer said she spent 20 minutes on Tuesday morning observing traffic at the intersection. During her time there, 27 of 28 vehicles "went straight through" as the city wishes motorists to do.

The following morning, Wednesday, March 18 from 11:42 a.m. to 12:04 p.m., the *Union* observed driver behavior at the hub, with far less conclusive results. The majority of vehicles – 56 – drove straight across the circle. Exactly half that number, 28, drove around it. Nineteen vehicles behaved ambiguously, not driving perfectly straight but not driving on the outer edge. Several seemed to be trying to follow the circle, but were limited by the presence of pedestrians in the crosswalks. During that interval, many, if not most, of the pedestrians could be heard discussing the unusual fixture. One man in a car even spoke out his window to another passing motorist.

"What is this thing?" he asked.

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A working class view

Co-operatives, along with granges and credit unions, grew out of an earlier era of concentrated wealth and power in the 19th century. Ordinary people found ways to join together to resist the tyranny of railroad and banking barons.

We still have credit unions and granges, although some granges have failed. And we have the North Coast Co-op. To be clear, our Co-op is not a worker-owned co-op. If it were, the workers would be making decisions about the business and keeping an eye on the finances.

Our Co-op is member-owned and members make up a little more than half of the shoppers on any given day. The members don't make decisions, other than voting for candidates to serve on the board of directors and proposed changes to bylaws. All other decisions are made by the members of that board in conjunction with their administrative staff.

Recently, the administrative staff commissioned

a survey of employee attitudes towards their job and towards management. Results of the survey were presented at the most recent Co-op board meeting.

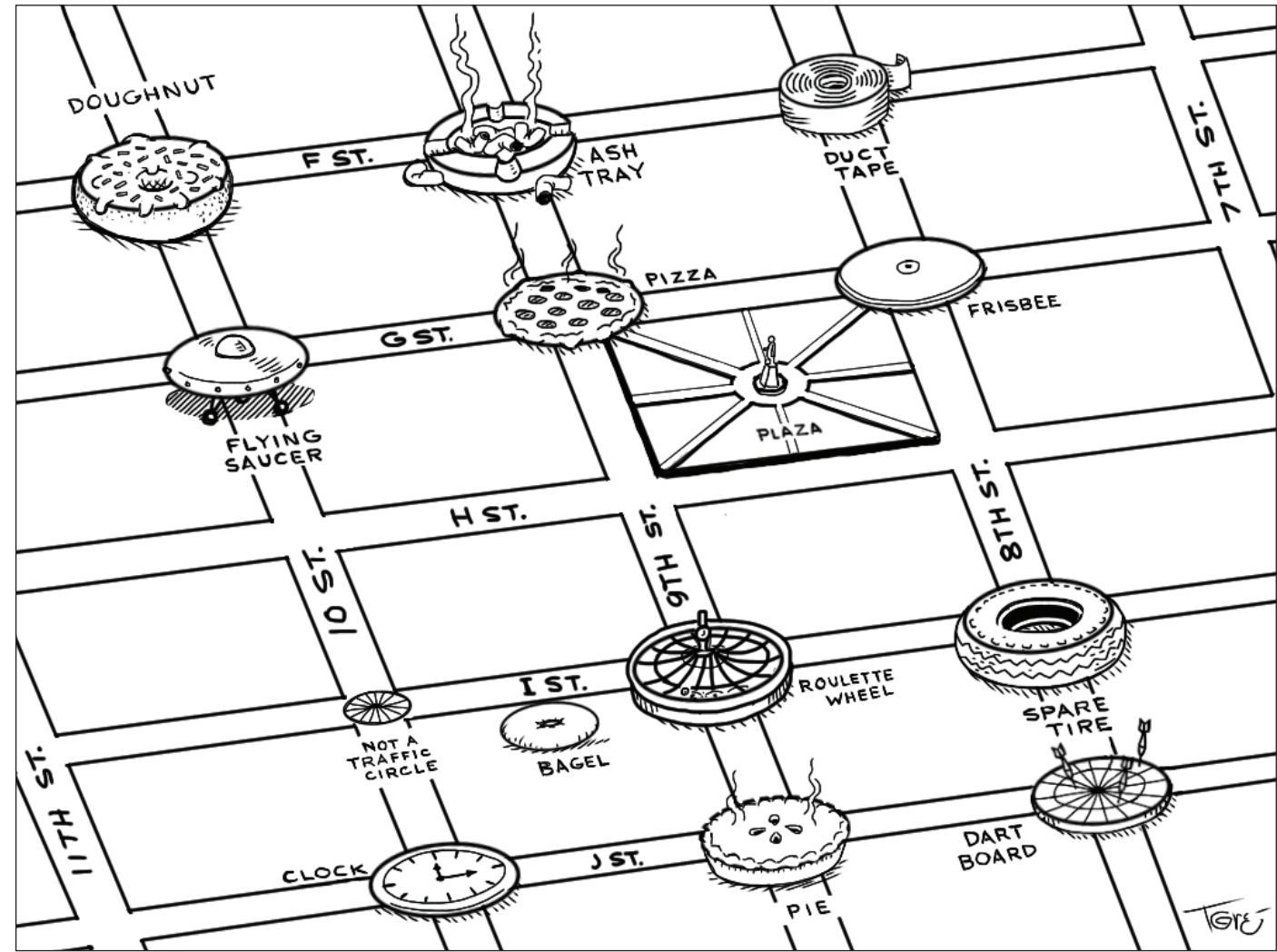
The good news, presented in a PowerPoint presentation that may or may not be available to the employees and the members, is that Co-op employees are very satisfied with their wages and benefits, which include a health care plan.

In a general economy that is determined to keep wages flat and benefit-free, the Co-op is doing much better than a lot of other employers. That's good news for the local economy as well. You can't have a healthy local economy without good paying jobs. Equal credit here goes to the union that represents the employees.

When it came to other areas of their employment, the result was not so favorable. The responses indicate a rift between management and staff. Complaints included haphazard and inadequate training of new employees, late scheduling that results in life disruption for some and problematic communication between management and staff.

Some employees feel that their suggestions are not valued and that their complaints fall on deaf ears. In fact, there is some feeling that to complain might jeopardize their employment. Good jobs are hard to find, after all.

It was not clear at the board meeting what actions will be taken to address the results of the survey. A major concern of some board members was that the pub-



News Item: Overwhelming success of new Bicycle Hub at 10th and I streets leads public to demand even more edgy traffic calming measures for downtown Arcata intersections.

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lic might get wind of what they characterized as “dirty laundry.”

It was not clear that the employees would get to see the unedited results of the survey or have an opportunity to discuss it. A co-op, whether worker-owned or member-owned, comes from that egalitarian tradition of an earlier era and it requires respect from all sides. I hope that the board and the management will move in that direction.

Mary Ella Anderson is a member of the Co-op Member Action Committee but her opinions are her own and don't represent the committee or the Co-op.

Shore up shoreline

The public's opposition to unconditional support for \$500,000 to conduct clearly slanted studies is based on this. After 30 years and literally millions of dollars spent removing vegetation from our coastal dunes we should already have numerous peer reviewed studies in place. Let's take a look at those. We should be able to ask if we are likely to get our monies worth.

Among what is missing from the proposed studies is how wetland effects are measured when the beachgrass is removed. We already know those projects kill trees and causes sand to migrate into these protected areas. The rest of the world understands that coastal wetlands are critical to coastal resiliency. Ms. Pickart has noted that the beachgrass has created extensive wetlands. It is obvious the removal of it will and has decreased the functioning of those wetlands.

Ms. Pickart was simply not telling the truth when she told the Supervisors that the required annual public meetings have been held. There have been only two in the last five years. At the last meeting she refused to answer a simple question as to when we can begin discussing the negative effects of beachgrass removal. The Dune Coop of which she and FOD belong does however, have regular secret

LETTERS ABOUT THE DUNES

meetings that are closed to the public. The Coop also claims they are unable to process public inquiries.

The “natural” dune erosion has been accelerated by the “restoration” projects. Actually, it has lately become a stated goal of these projects. However, the permits themselves have mitigation requirements to prevent destabilization and erosion.

Highly valuable 42 inch water mains are buried on the north spit and feed the Harbor District's Samoa industrial site. Reburying of these pipes commonly occurs in BLM's Ma-le'l where the foredune grass has been removed. The erosion in that area has cost ratepayer tens of thousands of dollars. Other areas with intact foredunes are stable and far less problematic and costly to maintain.

Ms. Pickart was also dishonest when she stated that there would be no “restoration” projects associated with this grant. Two of the “adaptation” projects include a massive effort to remove another half mile of foredune beachgrass. In order to change one dune grass to another far less drought tolerant and resilient one, it will cost us at least another \$100,000. Fencing the public off of our public land will tack on another \$5000 ac-

cording to the proposal.

Another inconsistency with this proposal is if there is a half million dollar need to better understand coastal processes how can it be said they have the necessary information to conduct an “adaptation” project that is known to destabilize dunes.

Ms. Fennel and Ms. Bass are right to be suspicious of the open mindedness of this proposal and they take the counties responsibility seriously. Nowhere in this proposed study are effects to wildlife, wetlands, infrastructure, increased wind velocities, etc. evaluated. Nor is there any suggestion in this proposal to even consider that the intentionally planted and naturalized grasses may actually be vital to these important coastal features.

It is critical to utilize non biased information in discussions regarding management decisions of public lands and public monies. We have neighbors to the north and to the south that have raised the red flag as to the dangers of changing topography and destabilizing coastal dunes. Several peer reviewed studies include the difference between the European and native variety of beachgrass for dune building. NOAA funded university studies in Oregon and Washington as well as articulate concerns raised in Point Reyes and Sonoma are very relevant, yet locally they have been largely ignored.

Just because there has been a very expensive 30-year-old obsession with digging up a helpful, naturalized even if not “native” plant, does not mean we should not take a step back and honestly evaluate the wisdom of that obsession.

Let's shore up our shoreline. Let's build up our dunes, enhance our coastal wetlands, forests and wildlife and protect infrastructure. We can do that with a grass that has been with us for over a hundred years.



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Uri Driscoll
Arcata

Why not study?

I know nothing about dune processes or dune restoration. I doubt that equestrians know any more than I do.

Supervisor Lovelace and I are both “baffled” by the reluctance to allow the state to pay for a comprehensive study.

Terence Marlow
Trinidad

OPINION

Refill as necessary

Our fast food culture has brainwashed us to believe that nature is dangerous and outside ourselves. The easiest way to reconnect with nature is to reconnect with our food sources. When you plant food in your backyard and then grow it and cook it and eat it, you digest important ideas about nature. You realize how much you depend on it.

– Alice Waters, chef and restaurateur, quote from *Sierra* magazine of July/August, 2014

We are so taught to overlook things when we are schooled that we have no idea what’s happening on/in our grand orb or the universe at large. Hopefully, we will find the way and be legends in the future time line, if time does even exist.

The April issue of *Popular Science* has an in-depth story about Green Bank, West Virginia that I mentioned in last week’s column. You must read it and mull what’s goin’ on everywhere. Doctors say that EHS

(electrohypersensitivity) doesn’t exist, except maybe in our minds. Living close to the PG&E sub-station is scary, with many weird symptoms that come and go as PG&E works on the station and the doctor doesn’t know what’s wrong with you. Birds avoid it except for the doves, but where else they gonna go as they are flushed out of attics and eaves everywhere. Many of the houseless people that used to hide there at night have gone away because of illnesses and the magnetic field that causes many things to stop working properly, like watches and radios, etc.

Trillium, waist-high ferns, ’shrooms and more, oh my! Cathedral of trees is so awesome with the up-down season of March Madness now upon us. Go for a walk on the wild side, watch the water trickle out of the hillsides and see the trees smile when the fog rolls in, but don’t stay after dark time as you’ll get lost if you don’t know the trails. Magic Marsh is another round-and-round if you don’t know where you’re going or where you’ve been. They have a couple of treks available every weekend and they are free. Go pickup a schedule of events at the Interpretive Center in the day light hours at 589 South G St. Website: arcatamarshfriends.org. Many free lectures also and check out the Marsh Mellow walk for the slow walkers on the last Tuesday of every month.

T-S of last Sunday, March 15, had a column by Tim Martin in the Opinion section on page A4 – “Big Daddy,” a Humboldt county legend – and it was fun to read and brought back memories. On March 17, there was a rebut, on the Opinion page A4, about the things he brought up and talked about. Now come on, you never went to a bar, party, drove drunk? I was raised with booze everywhere, as during World War II there wasn’t much else to do for those left at home to grieve and survive. My parents were too old to serve, so they worked to make weapons and put food on the table. Time went by so slowly as you stood in line with ration stamps for cigarettes and meat and more with Mom by your side waiting. So bars were a way of life and party time for all holidays and this is how many got invented. There were many mishaps, as there are now, but not everybody has fun in the sun or a home to live in.

A surprise when I found out that Robert Love is now the editor in chief of the AARP magazine, and he spent 20 years at *Rolling Stone* magazine. The recent issue of February/March 2015 has a story/interview with Bob Dylan and wow, re-read it how many times? Find one, buy one or go to the library and make some copies for later.

Bottoms time last Friday was calm and warm with Chloe out waiting on the curb for love and treats and Maria’s pup out across the way waiting behind the fence callin, I want mine now! Spyder and Sumi not out, but cat was about for treats.

Chickens and rabbits also waiting at the fence across the way on Janes Road and that’s always fun for all of us. Ponies were out and about waiting, with Luna coming down the path for her treats too. In some places, the sides of the road were still very wet and the opposite sides were dry. Bovine crew waiting for the fence to be opened, especially when the milk truck drove by. Cats at the dairy are still low in volume and one of them that is usually elusive had the sneezes and was very friendly. I don’t want food just pet me and I’ll get better.

I wonder what happened to the goats afield in the front yard that used to be the habitat of Junior, the dog. Gone, as many things disappear in the Bottoms all the time.

“Drink one mug by mouth, repeat until awake and alert.” A hilarious mug that looks like a prescription refill for coffee. Refill as often as necessary and hand wash only, OK!

Just had a religious knock on the door and I didn’t answer it as I don’t like groups of zealots wanting you to believe only their side of the story.

Bev says sun’s out, rain’s on hold and you can’t hold me down right down as I want to walk now!



Airternatives

In the March 11, *Mad River Union*, Editor Jack Durham, begs county supervisors to “fix the airport’s name.” As a nearby resident of the main airport of Humboldt County, I am also interested in this renaming business.

Two alternatives come to mind: *Alternative one:* When visitors touch down at what was known as “Arcata Airport,” they like to know exactly where they are, so a longer name would be appropriate.

How about extending the present appellation to specifically reflect this remarkable destination, such as: “California Redwood Coast Humboldt County Airport, Formerly Arcata Airport, Situated on a Plateau Above the Pacific Ocean in the Northwest Outskirts of McKinleyville?”

Alternative two: In the interest of brevity, our thoughtful supervisors

might consider something suggestive, such as “Big Mac Airport,” or “Humboldt High Airport.”

Then again, as has been done with President McKinley in naming our town, we could call it “Bushville Airport” or we could honor Mr. Cheney, the gray-eminence in that Administration, and take off at Dickville.

Far more seriously, and just as succinct, are names which have probably come to mind and should be reviewed. As Mr. Durham suggests, a name-fix is needed. (Dear County Administrators, let’s get this in the works before it gets too heavy to lift!)

“Mad River Airport” is a name too good to ignore, and what about “Tri-City Airport” or “Yurok Airport?”

Finally, and somewhat poetically: Who wouldn’t want to land in a beautiful little airport called “Westhaven?”

**John Wiebe
Trinidad**

Making traffic terrific in the Sandy Outpost

The salty outpost of Manila got some good news recently when it learned that Humboldt County Public Works and Caltrans are teaming up to apply for a grant for much needed pedestrian and bicycle lane improvements.

But exactly what will be built is unknown. It depends on what’s allowed by the bureaucracy in charge, the amount of funding available and public input. Although a date hasn’t been set, a public workshop will be held at the end of this month or early April, according to Caltrans.

When tackling the project, planners should consider the following:

- One of the biggest problems in Manila is crossing State Route 255, which slices right through the middle of town and divides the community in half. The highway is wide, and the cars are moving fast. It’s downright dangerous. Understandably, some community members are reluctant to have their children cross the highway

on their own. Whatever project is pursued, the crossings need to be addressed.

- Roundabouts installed at the Pacific Avenue/Dean Street and the Lupine Drive intersections would slow down traffic and provide a safer pedestrian crossing. As a bonus, roundabouts would greatly improve vehicle safety.

- One proposal is to build colorized Class II bike lanes

on either side of the highway. However, it’s worth noting that the highway already has wide shoulders. In the overall scheme of things, Class II lanes would be a minuscule improvement. Besides, if bicyclists want to avoid highway traffic, they can ride on Peninsula Drive, which has minimal traffic and extends almost the entire length of the town. Why ride your bicycle on State Route 255 when you can take the side streets? Some signage informing bicyclists

of this route would be an economical solution.

- Although Peninsula Drive provides a bicycle friendly riding experience and an alternative to the highway, there’s still the crossing issue at Pacific Avenue and Dean Street, which is where bicyclists cross from the east side of town to the west.

- Another proposal is to build a Class 1 Hammond

Trail-style pathway, separate from traffic, on the west side of the highway. Although this looks like an attractive option at first glance, it will have a major impact on the dunes. There are wetlands and other challenges. The money that would be spent on a Class 1 pathway could be better spent filling in gaps elsewhere.

- Other than the harrowing crossings over the highway, and some of the loose pit bulls that roam the streets, Manila is already fairly bi-



Preferential treatment and process

Two high-level county employees were recently treated very differently when it came to increasing their compensation because they have taken on more work and responsibility. Carolyn Ruth, the assistant county counsel, was recommended for an increase in pay for acting as interim county counsel after her former boss retired. Sheriff Mike Downey was recommended for a similar increase because the county merged the coroner’s office into his department.

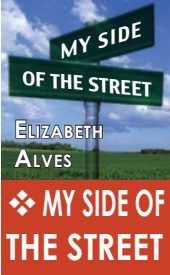
Ruth’s case went before the Board of Supervisors last month, and following an acrimonious discussion, the board finally voted 4-1, with Supervisor Mark Lovelace dissenting, to award her half the amount suggested by staff.

A number of people spoke during public comments, and many of them were opposed to the action. Some cited complaints about her work on the Tooby case, as if there wasn’t plenty of blame to go around in that mess.

Others claimed the increase would be a pension spike, because the higher salary will increase her pension payments when she retires, which she plans to do in June. Pension spiking refers to manipulating the system by awarding an unjustified raise near retirement. It does not pertain to this case, in which Ruth stepped up to help lead and stabilize the department when her boss retired and Maggie Fleming, another senior member of the office, took up her new post as District Attorney.

It’s worth noting that swifter action by the county staff and supervisors would have made all this unnecessary, because former County Counsel Wendy Chaitin gave plenty of notice of her impending retirement. An outside con-

sultant — how do you spell expensive? — has been hired to cover some of her duties, but Ruth was left with the rest. There is no reason whatever to expect her to bail out the county for free.



When a pension is part of a compensation package, it is affected by salary earned. The formula might call for basing the monthly pension on the last year, or the year of highest earnings or some other combination. Whatever the details, the important word is “earned.”

Last week, the board seemed to have no trouble with the concept as it pertained to Downey. He, too, is expected to retire in the next few years, and higher earnings will increase his pension. But after just a brief discussion, the 10 percent increase was passed unanimously.

This shows exactly why the concept of civil service rules was adopted, to prevent the kind of preferential treatment we see in these two cases. Lovelace argued strongly in the Ruth case that matters such as this are based on a policy which is set countywide, and that abandoning that policy by singling out one employee was wrong. It makes the county look like a bunch of amateurs passing out jobs and perks to friends and relatives.

The whole point of civil service rules is to award jobs, promotions and other benefits in a completely neutral way, based on merit. In these two cases, the board threw away the notion, disgracing us all. Only Lovelace stood up for doing the right thing.

Did the other supervisors even consider that Ruth is an attorney, and can sue them without the expense of hiring another attorney? They handed her evidence of unfair treatment on a silver platter, and by connecting it with her retirement date, added age discrimina-

✦ LETTERS

Confused, dreaming

I join in the confusion!

The recent two new STOP signs at 11th and I streets. Are they “art sculptures” made to look like real stop signs? I presume they’re there to remind us that our public officials need to STOP wasting money.

The new “roundabout” (though of questionable size) at 10th and I streets I presume, is a “real” round-about to encourage the public to CONTINUE to SEE such structures as a means of safe traffic flow.

Oh ! ...could I be wrong? At that cost! Call me a dreamer, but I would have made pothole-free streets a priority in our lovely city of Arcata.

**Linda Swinney
Bayside**

cycle friendly from the Mad River Slough to the Samoa Bridges. The highway has decent shoulders and Peninsula Drive provides a low-traffic alternative. However, there are problems beyond the edges of town. There’s barely any shoulder from the Mad River Slough to Jackson Ranch Road, making it dangerous to bicycle to Arcata. If the goal of these improvements is to allow Manila folks to safely bicycle to Arcata, then the real improvements that need to be made are not actually in Manila, but between the slough and Jackson Ranch Road. Once at Jackson Ranch Road, bicyclists have an off-highway alternative to get to Arcata.

- For bicyclists and pedestrians traveling to Eureka, the danger is crossing the Samoa Bridges. The State Route 255 Engineered Feasibility Study, completed in 2012, includes an option of putting an extension on the sides of the bridges for pedestrian traffic. This would solve the problem Eureka problem.

tion. Granting an even larger increase to Downey a few scant weeks later added insult to injury.

There is speculation that the four who voted for a smaller increase were grandstanding for constituents who object to public employee pensions on principle. Such persons are mostly jealous, because they worked in industries that either never offered pensions, or were allowed to jettison them. As labor unions lose power, pensions for non-executives continue to fade.

They also overlook the fact that many career public employees are not eligible for Social Security. Those who did contribute to Social Security while working in other sectors get only a small portion of the benefit they earned, because of their public employee pensions. It’s not fair, but like so much else in our economy, it happens.

The California Public Employee Pension Fund is underfunded because cities, counties and other agencies got a long contribution holiday when the stock market was roaring. The investments were making so much money that the pension payments were easily met without the employer contribution. Why not offer more generous benefits when there was no cost?

Then the market crashed, and the future payments were badly underfunded. Agencies that had not been making any payments are now spending more than a tenth of their revenue catching up, and blaming the employees. It’s hard to justify, but popular with taxpayers.

Elizabeth Alves notes that Downey is male and Ruth is not, and wonders if that had any influence on these decisions. Comments and suggestions are welcome care of the Union or to mysidestreet@gmail.com.

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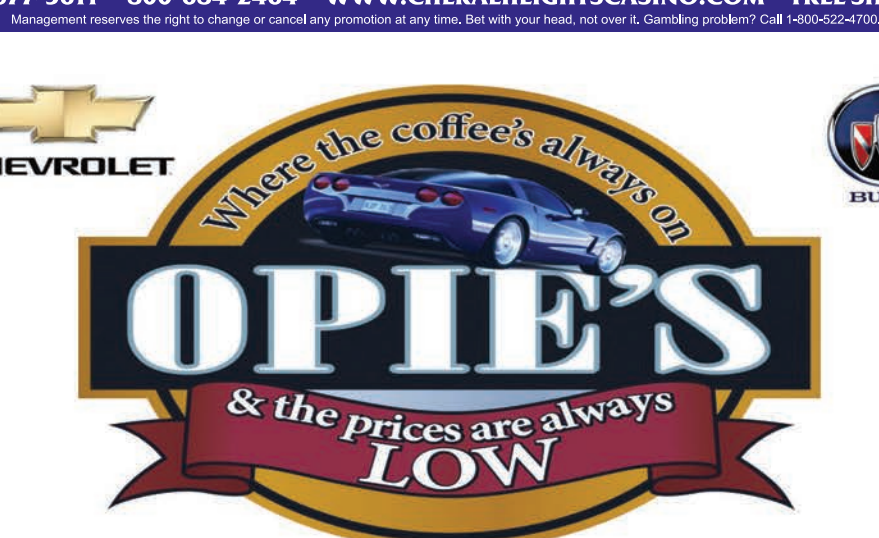
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with one of
his sculptures
at the Arcata
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SCENE

❖ ARTIST PROFILE



Sculptor Jim Smith
explores the
art of rust

Bryn Robertson
MAD RIVER UNION

ARCATA – Local sculptor Jim Smith likes having something to show for himself at the end of the day. Owner of Third Eye Sculpture in Arcata, Smith works with metals, wood and Humboldt County weather to do just that.

Smith never lived anywhere longer than four years before moving to Humboldt County, where over the past two decades he met his wife, graduated from Humboldt State University with a Bachelor of Arts, had kids and collaborated with other local artists to access a studio space, solidifying himself as an active member of Arcata's small but lively art community.

Originally majoring in environmental engineering and sustainable agriculture at HSU, Smith switched to art after finding himself enjoying his studio classes the most, including use of the sculpture lab's foundry, where Smith learned to melt and cast metal to incorporate into his work.

After graduating, he adapted his supplies and processes, choosing sheet metal and found material from the Arcata Scrap and Salvage yard, located only a few steps from his studio on South G Street.

Like a true Arcata local, environmental awareness and sustainability remain an important aspect of Smith's life and are present in his art, in process, presentation, and how he hopes his work will be received.

Humboldt County's liberal mindset, he said, is conscientious of the relationship between the individual and the planet, an attitude he highlights through his work. "If I can make the viewer pause to contemplate their interaction with the world," he said, "that's what I want."

The transitory aspect of life, aesthetically speaking, is something that interests Smith as well. He chooses materials that rust and quickly change when exposed to Humboldt's humid weather, including mild metal and bamboo. When a piece is complete, there's a level of excitement to place it outdoors and let nature add its finishing touches. Smith, who said the work doesn't always "feel complete yet" until the weather's had some time

with it, sometimes uses chemical treatments to speed up the rusting process. "I like to concentrate on the impermanence of things," he said.

Size is important too. Smith typically works within the garden scale, a height of at least five feet, inspired by public art in inner city environments, especially works in San Francisco and Bend, Ore. And while he is conscious of marketability as an aspect of artmaking, he makes work for himself first. "Selling not being my goal frees me up to make the work I want to make," he said. "I joke that I have the best sculpture collection in town, but it's all mine." That being said, he takes offers too.

Smith's wife Sarah, also an artist who works in ceramics, shares the South G Street studio space with a handful of other artists working in a variety of media, including the Kinetic Grand Champions, Tempus Fugitives. A proud member of the annual community event, Smith splits his time between his day job at a local lumber business, raising his two kids, creating his own work and collaborating with his teammates to create their vehicle for the next race. Smith's kids, Nadia and Everett, inspired by their parents' creativity, have taken a liking to the idea of souping up their bicycles kinetic sculpture-style, and often bug Smith to use his welding abilities to transform them.

He does it all, he said, because he really just enjoys building things. Whether it's a set of homemade monkey bars for his kids, a kinetic sculpture or a piece of his own work, Smith has a pattern of deriving pleasure in life from kinesthetic processes. He does it for himself first; impacting others is a definite added bonus. Recalling poignant words from former sculpture professor Maris Benson, Smith explains just how. "If people think about it after they've left, it's successful."

Smith's work is on display in downtown Arcata in the Ninth Street sculpture garden outside Arcata Stay (next to Humboldt Glassblowers) at the intersection of Bret Hart Alley, as well as at Third Eye Studios at 326 South G St. thirdeyesculpture.com

SECTION B

MARCH 25, 2015

Highlights of the week

❖ ROCKIN' BIZ



BACK IN THE BLACK Don't miss Arcata Economic Development Corporation's ninth annual Spotlight on Success at Arcata Theatre Lounge, 1036 G St., in Arcata, on Tuesday, March 31. Doors open at 5 p.m. At this free event, check out business displays and sample food from over 20 local food producers and restaurants while enjoying live music by The Undercovers. Judging by the poster, it's just got to rock.

❖ COMEDY

FUNNY BUSINESS ATL Productions and Misfits of Mayhem present Everything Must Go! (Tony's Going Out Of Business Sale) Thursday, March 26 at 8 p.m. Tony Persico is taking a break from putting on comedy shows for a while, but before he does, he has to unload all this inventory at rock bottom prices! He's offering incredibly high quality comedians going for way less than they're worth! Matt Gubser – 40% off. Iris Benson – 50% off. Johnny Taylor – 60% off. Daymon Ferguson – 70% off. And that's not all! Get out to Arcata Theatre Lounge, 1036 G St. in Arcata, and take a look at their fine, funny selection. Don't wait too long! Ten bucks gets you in the door for these incredible savings!



❖ MUSIC



WHALE SONG A cellist from Sacramento, a flutist from Venezuela and a pianist from Florida walked into a university in Lincoln, Nebraska. They walked out as the Lancaster Trio, performing a program at HSU that includes a work inspired by whale songs *Vox Balaenae*, or "Voice of the Whale" by contemporary American composer George Crumb. Crumb was inspired by the first recordings of humpback whale songs in the late 1960s and requested that performers wear masks and be bathed in blue light. The concert begins with the *Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano* by Bohuslav Martinu. The Lancaster Trio performs on Thursday, March 26 at 8 p.m. in Fulkerson Recital Hall on the HSU campus in Arcata. Tickets are \$10 general/\$5 seniors, children and students, from the HSU Box Office or at the door. (707) 826-3928, HSUMusic.blogspot.com



GRAMMY GALS Laurie Lewis and Kathy Kallick.

PHOTO BY IRENE YOUNG

CREAMERY DISTRICT – Laurie & Kathy Sing the Songs of Vern & Ray brings together two of the world's best bluegrass artists performing the songs of their highly-esteemed Cal-

ifornia predecessors, Vern Williams and Ray Parks. Williams and Parks' hard-core traditional bluegrass in the high lonesome style has found its perfect interpreters in fiddler Laurie Lew-

is and guitarist Kathy Kallick, both of whom learned from and sometimes played with Vern and/or Ray.

Both Lewis and Kallick are Grammy award winners. Lewis has recorded more than 20 albums, with Kallick close behind with her recent 19th release.

For an evening of glorious real-deal bluegrass, with vocal and instrumental fireworks, don't miss Laurie Lewis on fiddle and vocals and Kathy Kallick on guitar and vocals with Tom Rozum (mandolin, vocals), Cary Black (bass, vocals) and Patrick Sauber (banjo) this Sunday, March 29 at 7 p.m. at the Arcata Playhouse, 1251 Ninth St. in Arcata. Tickets are \$18/\$15 for Playhouse and Humboldt Folklife Members and are available at Wildberries Marketplace or by calling (707) 822-1575. arcataplayhouse.org

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CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

❖ MUSIC

Aber Miller 6 p.m., Larrupin' Café, 1658 Patrick's Point Dr., Trinidad

Local Music Showcase 6 p.m., Blondies Food and Drink, 420 E. California Ave., Arcata

RLA Trio 6 p.m. Mad River Brewing Co., 101 Taylor Way, Blue Lake

Jimi Jeff & the Gypsy Band 7 p.m., Central Station, 1631 Central Ave., McKinleyville

Blues Jam 8:30 p.m., Clam Beach Inn Digger Bar, 4611 Central Ave., McKinleyville

The Itals with Freddie Hernandez 9 p.m., WAVE Lounge at Blue Lake Casino, 777 Casino Way, Blue Lake

Whomp! 9:30 p.m., The Jambalaya, 915 H St., Arcata

Reggae Wednesdayz 10 p.m., Toby & Jack's, 764 Ninth St., Arcata

❖ COMEDY

Second City Hit Home! 8 p.m., Van Duzer Theater, HSU, Arcata • *The legendary improv comedy troupe. Tickets are \$35/\$10 HSU students.* humboldt.edu/centerarts

❖ DANCE

Rueda de Casino (Cuban Salsa) 7 p.m., Redwood Raks, 824 L St., Arcata

Salsa Night 9 p.m., Robert Goodman Wines, 937 10th St., Arcata

❖ FILM

Sci Fi Pint and Pizza Night 6 p.m., Arcata Theater Lounge, 1036 G St., Arcata • *Featuring Escape from Galaxy 3.*

❖ OTHER

Business Plan Awards 5:30 p.m., Azalea Hall 1620 Pickett Rd., McKinleyville • *Meredith Meir, co-owner of Six Rivers Brewery, is the featured speaker.*

Women in Politics 6 p.m. Kate Buchanan Room, HSU, Arcata • *HSU Democrats host a celebration and panel discussion with women involved in local politics. Free.*

Live Turtle Racing 8 p.m., Logger Bar, 510 Railroad Ave., Blue Lake

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

❖ MUSIC

Fred and Jr. 6 p.m., Mad River Brewing Co., 101 Taylor Way, Blue Lake • *Swing jazz.*

Open Mic 7 p.m., Blondies Food and Drink, 420 E. California Ave., Arcata

RLA Trio 8 p.m., Redwood Curtain Brewery, 550 South G St., Arcata

Blues Night 8 p.m., Redwood Raks, 824 L St., Arcata

Karaoke with KJ Leonard 8 p.m., WAVE Lounge at Blue Lake Casino, 777 Casino Way, Blue Lake

Voice of the Whale with the Lancaster Trio 8 p.m., Fulkerson Recital Hall, HSU, Arcata • *Details on page B1.*

Satisfi 9 p.m. Six Rivers Brewery, 1300 Central Ave., McKinleyville

Roots and Culture Reggae Night 9 p.m., Robert Goodman Wines, 937 10th St., Arcata

Kindred Spirits 9 p.m., Clam Beach Inn Digger Bar, 4611 Central Ave., McKinleyville

Karaoke with DJ Marv 9 p.m., Central Station, 1631 Central Ave., McKinleyville

Soul Night #41 9 p.m., Humboldt Brews, 856 10th St., Arcata

Rude Lion Sound 9:30 p.m., Sidelines, 732 Ninth St., Arcata

Mad Trees Digital 10 p.m., The Jambalaya, 915 H St., Arcata

Bashment 11 p.m., The Alibi, 744 Ninth St., Arcata • *Dread Lightning Hi-Fi presents Red Rasta, Gabe Pressure and DJ Dirtbag spinning the best in bass heavy reggae, dancehall and remixes on a 6,000 watt sound system.*

❖ COMEDY

Everything Must Go! 8 p.m. Arcata Theater Lounge, 1036 G St., Arcata • *Details on page B1.*

❖ THEATRE

Dido and Aeneas 7:30 p.m., Gist Hall Theater, HSU, Arcata • *Details on page B3.*

Death by Design 8 p.m. North Coast Repertory Theater, 300 Fifth St., Eureka • *Details on page B3.*

❖ OTHER

A Taste of Main Street 5 to 8 p.m., various locations, downtown and Old Town Eureka • *Support Eureka Main Street by sampling food from 24 local participating restaurants and food producers and enjoying local music. (707) 442-9054*

Kay Ryan 7 p.m., Kate Buchanan Room HSU, Arcata • *The Poet Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet reads her work and signs copies of her books.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

❖ MUSIC

Blue Lotus Jazz 5:30 p.m., Larrupin' Café, 1658 Patrick's Point Dr., Trinidad

No Good Redwood Ramblers 6 p.m., Mad River Brewing Co., 101 Taylor Way, Blue Lake • *Classic country covers.*

Susie Laraine and Friends 7 p.m., Libation, 761 Eighth St., Arcata

Open Mic 7 p.m., Northtown Coffee, 1603 G St., Arcata

Friday Night Music 7 to 9:30 p.m., Fieldbrook General Store, 4636 Fieldbrook Rd., Fieldbrook

Ultra Secret Good Guy Organization 9 p.m. Six Rivers Brewery, 1300 Central Ave., McKinleyville

707 9 p.m., Firewater Lounge at Cher-ae Heights Casino, 27 Scenic Dr., Trinidad • *'70s funk and '80s rock.*

Karaoke with Rock Star 9 p.m., Central Station, 1631 Central Ave., McKinleyville

The Getdown 9 p.m., WAVE Lounge at Blue Lake Casino, 777 Casino Way, Blue Lake

Hillstomp and The Quick & Easy Boys 9:30 p.m., Humboldt Brews, 856 10th St., Arcata

Hip Hop DJs 9:30 p.m., Toby & Jack's, 764 Ninth St., Arcata

DJs 10 p.m., Sidelines, 732 Ninth St., Arcata

Kindred Spirits 10 p.m., Clam Beach Inn, 4611 Central Ave., McKinleyville

❖ FILM

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) 8 p.m., Arcata Theater Lounge, 1036 G St., Arcata

❖ THEATRE

Dido and Aeneas 7:30 p.m., Gist Hall Theater, HSU, Arcata • *Details on page B3.*

Death by Design 8 p.m. North Coast Repertory Theater, 300 Fifth St., Eureka • *Details on page B3.*

❖ OTHER

Humboldt Women's Environmental Conference 1 to 9 p.m., Native American Forum, HSU, Arcata • *Women at the forefront of environmental and social justice struggles speak on a variety of topics. The conference features keynote speaker Auggie Pilgrim, Chief of the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers. Free.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

❖ MUSIC

Kingfoot 6 p.m., Mad River Brewing Co., 101 Taylor Way, Blue Lake • *Modern Americana.*

Jim & John 6 p.m., Crush, 1101 H St., Arcata • *Acoustic duo.*

Acoustic Night 6:30 p.m., Fieldbrook Family Market, 4636 Fieldbrook Rd., Fieldbrook

Blue Lotus Jazz 7 p.m., Libation, 761 Eighth St., Arcata

Chubritza 7:30 p.m., Westhaven Center for the Arts, 501 South Westhaven Dr., Trinidad • *An evening of cultural depictions, songs and explanations using varied instruments, both modern and cultural. Toe tapping or hauntingly beautiful, this concert offers a fascinating musical trip around the world re-*

flecting universal themes: passions and sorrows of love, and the happiness music and dance bring to the heart! Admission is \$10/\$8 WCA members, students and seniors. Refreshments available. westhavencenter.org

DJ Pandemonium Jones 8 p.m., Richard's Goat, 401 I St., Arcata

Original Stars of American Bandstand 8 p.m., Cher-Ae Heights Casino, 27 Scenic Dr., Trinidad

Raising Grain 8 p.m., Redwood Curtain Brewery, 550 South G St., Arcata

Good and Evil Twins Karaoke 8 p.m., Silver Lining, California Redwood Coast Humboldt County Airport, McKinleyville

Shift 9 p.m. Six Rivers Brewery, 1300 Central Ave., McKinleyville

Pressure Anya 9 p.m., Firewater Lounge at Cher-ae Heights Casino, 27 Scenic Dr., Trinidad • *DJ dance beats.*

Backstreet 9 p.m., WAVE Lounge at Blue Lake Casino, 777 Casino Way, Blue Lake

Blessed Coast 9 p.m., Blue Lake Casino, 777 Casino Way, Blue Lake • *Dancehall reggae; tickets \$10.*

P3 Oasis Precompression Party 9 p.m., The Jambalaya, 915 H St., Arcata • *Featuring booty groovin' beats, go-go dancing, a Burning Man slideshow and other visual delights by Marmalade Sky and live painting by Blake Reagan with the finished art up for silent auction. Playa wear is encouraged, the dustier the better. Admission is \$5.*

Dr. Squid 9 p.m., Central Station, 1631 Central Ave., McKinleyville

Brothers Comatose and Dead Winter Carpenters 9:30 p.m. Humboldt Brews, 856 10th St., Arcata

DJs 10 p.m., Toby & Jack's, 764 Ninth St., Arcata

Rude Lion Sounds 10 p.m., Sidelines, 732 Ninth St., Arcata

Mos Generator & Lord Ellis 11 p.m., the Alibi, 744 Ninth St., Arcata • *Humboldt Free Radio presents Port Orchard stoner rock and Humboldt heavy rock. \$5 cover; no minors.*

❖ COMEDY

Make Me Laugh! 10 p.m., Arcata Playhouse, 1251 Ninth St., Arcata • *Music, games, prizes, comedy and a mustache competition! Just \$10.*

❖ THEATRE

Dido and Aeneas 7:30 p.m., Gist Hall Theater, HSU, Arcata • *Details on page B3.*

Death by Design 8 p.m. North Coast Repertory Theater, 300 Fifth St., Eureka • *Details on page B3.*

❖ OTHER

Arcata Winter Farmers' Market 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Arcata Plaza, Arcata

Humboldt Women's Environmental Conference 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Native American Forum, HSU, Arcata • *See Friday listing.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

❖ MUSIC

Mystic Wave 10 a.m., Redwood Raks, 824 L St., Arcata • *Ecstatic dance and sound healing; \$5 to \$15 sliding scale.*

Tim Randles Jazz Piano 6 p.m., Larrupin Café, 1658 Patrick's Point Dr., Trinidad

Open Mic 7 p.m., Mosgo's, 180 Westwood Center, Arcata

Jazz Night 7 p.m., Blondies Food and Drink, 420 E. California Ave., Arcata

Laurie Lewis and Kathy Kallick 8 p.m., Arcata Playhouse, 1251 Ninth St., Arcata • *Details on page B1.*

Karaoke with KJ Leonard 8 p.m., WAVE Lounge at Blue Lake Casino, 777 Casino Way, Blue Lake

Karaoke with Chris Clay 8 p.m., Firewater Lounge at Cher-Ae Heights Casino, 27 Scenic Dr., Trinidad • *The grand finale of the month-long karaoke contest with a \$1,000 grand prize!*

Sundaze with Deep Groove Society 9 p.m., Jambalaya, 915 H St., Arcata

❖ FILM

Pokémon (1998) 7 p.m., Arcata Theater Lounge, 1036 G St., Arcata

❖ THEATRE

Death by Design 2 p.m. North Coast Repertory Theater, 300 Fifth St., Eureka • *Details on page B3.*

❖ OTHER

Humboldt Women's Environmental Conference 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Native American Forum, HSU, Arcata • *See Friday listing.*

Potluck 6 p.m., Logger Bar, 510 Railroad Ave., Blue Lake

How to Be True to Your Faith (Without Being a Jerk): Confessions of a Religious Ethicist, 7 p.m., Lifetree Café, 13th and Union streets, Arcata • *Featuring an interview with religious ethicist Jacob Robinson, who says, "I started to learn that instead of correcting people, I needed to learn how to listen. Before I had always listened to correct; I didn't listen to care." A free conversation café with coffee and snacks. (707) 672-2919, bobbipert@hotmail.com*

Trivia Night 8 p.m. Six Rivers Brewery, 1300 Central Ave., McKinleyville

MONDAY, MARCH 30

❖ MUSIC

Anemones of the State 5 p.m., Sushi Spot, 1552 City Center Rd., McKinleyville

Buddy Reed 7 p.m., Crush, 1101 H St., Arcata

Jimi Jeff & the Gypsy Band 7:30 p.m., Simon LeGreens, Hwy. 299, Hawkins Bar

Karaoke with DJ Marv 8 p.m., Six Rivers Brewery, 1300 Central Ave., McKinleyville

Yonder Mountain String Band 8 p.m., Van Duzer Theater, HSU, Arcata • *Bluegrass + rock 'n roll = high-energy good time.*

Rude Lion Mondayz 9:30 p.m., Ocean Grove Cocktail Lounge, 480 Patrick's Point Dr., Trinidad

The Getdown 10 p.m., The Jambalaya, 915 H St., Arcata

❖ DANCE

Swing Dance Night 7 p.m., Redwood Raks, 824 L St., Arcata

❖ OTHER

Free Pool all day, Logger Bar, 510 Railroad Ave., Blue Lake

Grief Support Group 6 p.m., fourth floor, Jacoby's Storehouse, 781 Eighth St., Arcata • *Free support group offered by Hospice of Humboldt.*

Quiz Night 7 p.m., Blondies Food and Drink, 420 E. California Ave., Arcata

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

❖ MUSIC

Blue Lotus Jazz 6 p.m., Mad River Brewing Co., 101 Taylor Way, Blue Lake • *Jazz guitar and vocals.*

Buddy Reed 7 p.m., Libation, 761 Eighth St., Arcata

Karaoke with Chris Clay 8 p.m., Firewater Lounge at Cher-Ae Heights Casino, 27 Scenic Dr., Trinidad

Good and Evil Twins Karaoke 8 p.m., Silver Lining, California Redwood Coast-Humboldt County Airport, McKinleyville

❖ COMEDY

Savage Henry Comedy Night 8 p.m., The Jambalaya, 915 H St., Arcata

❖ OTHER

Game Night 5 p.m., Crush, 1101 H St., Arcata

AEDC Spotlight on Success 5:30 p.m., Arcata Theater Lounge, 1251 Ninth St., Arcata • *Details on page B1.*

Human Expression Night 7 p.m., Blondies Food and Drink, 420 E. California Ave., Arcata

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SCENE

Spring is the season to show your art

MAD RIVER UNION

HUMBOLDT – After a winter of incubation, springtime in Humboldt sees a blooming of local art. In addition to regularly-scheduled art nights and exhibits, there are three opportunities to strut your stuff this spring indoors and out.

Open Studios

The application deadline for the 17th annual North Coast Open Studios (NCOS) is today, March 25. The nonprofit, community event, which runs the weekends of June 6 and 7 and June 13 and 14, includes artists and artisans from all over Humboldt County, and is free to the public. Participants may choose to be open one or both weekends.



STAMP MAN North Coast Open Studios participating artist Steven Vander Meer demonstrates how the rubber stamp creation process works at his Meer Image studio in Manila.

PHOTO BY MONICA TOPPING | NCOS

Open Studios is an opportunity for artists to make personal connections with the public — fans get to see how the creative process works and talk to them about inspiration and method. NCOS is also a great opportunity for artists to showcase new projects.

This year, Open Studios is opening registration to local artisan manufacturers.

“Fans of North Coast Open Studios are interested in the process of creation,” says NCOS coordinator Monica Topping. “Imagine visiting a woodworker at one stop, then getting to learn how artisan chocolate is made, at the next.”

Building on last year’s successes, event organizers continue to seek out more youth involvement through schools, organizations and individuals, as well as Southern Humboldt artist participation utilizing “hot spots” — one location with multiple artists, which can draw more visitors to the area. Artists may contact Topping for more information on hot spots in

the Southern Humboldt area during the first weekend of NCOS.

Applications are available for download or online submission at northcoastopenstudios.com. For more information, email contact@northcoastopenstudios.com or call the Ink People Center for the Arts at (707) 442-8413.

5”x7” Art Splurge

The Morris Graves Museum of Art (MGMA) is asking artists to donate 5-by-7 inch (or 7-by-5 inch) works in any media... think paintings, drawings, tiles, sculpture, fabric, mixed media and even jewelry to support the MGMA and Youth Art Education Programs.

The 5”x7” Art Splurge offers original art at a flat rate of \$100/\$75 for current Humboldt Arts Council (HAC) members so that all art is accessible to everyone. The HAC supplies a 5-by-7 inch panel (or use your own mount) which will keep your costs low, and you don’t even have to frame it. To request a 5-by-7 inch panel, contact the MGMA at (707) 442-0278, ext. 205 or jemima@humboldtarts.org.

The deadline to submit work is Saturday, April 11; all the artwork will be displayed in the Anderson Gallery at the MGMA from April 18 through May 31. The artwork will be hung anonymously and patrons won’t know whose work they’ll be picking. Of course, artists will identify themselves on the back of each work. Value and name recognition is leveled in this sale while fun and suspense is increased.

Thirty first-pick tickets will be sold at \$50 each prior to the May 2 Art Splurge on a first-come, first-serve basis. After the 30 first-pick ticket holders have chosen their pieces to buy, the artwork is available to all for purchase.

The MGMA, located at 636 F St., Eureka, is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults/\$2 for seniors (age 65 and over) and students with ID/free to children 17 and under and museum members.

Downstream Designs

The City of Arcata Recreation Division seeks local artists to design and paint stormwater drain murals at three pre-selected sites. They are looking for murals that draw attention to these discreet concrete storm drains and convey messages of conservation and pollution prevention.

Artist submissions are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 1. All submissions are included in a gallery show at City Hall for Arts! Arcata on Friday, May 8. The three selected artists each receive a \$500 stipend as well as their art featured in multiple publications.

For more information and an Artist Submission Packet, contact the Arcata Recreation Division at (707) 822-7091 or visit cityofarcata.org/rec and click on Downstream Designs. This project is supported by the California Coastal Commission’s Whale Tail Program.

TRAGIC LOVE Witches and lovers clash when HSU Opera Workshop presents the lively and tragic love story of *Dido and Aeneas* in Gist Hall Theater at HSU, Thursday through Sunday March 26 to 29. Set in the ancient world of myth, Dido (played by Olivia Bright) is the widowed Queen of Carthage, and Aeneas (Alberto Rodriguez) is a legendary Trojan warrior. Dido’s friend Belinda (Jessie Rawson) supports their love but a sorceress (Lorena Tamayo) and her witches plot to drive them apart. This relatively short opera (about an hour) is by Henry Purcell, one of England’s greatest composers. Written in the Baroque period, it remains the only English opera before the 20th century that is still performed in the modern repertoire. Paul Cummings conducts an instrumental ensemble accompanying the 18 singers and dancers. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10/\$5 seniors and children/\$3 HSU students, from the HSU Ticket Office, (707) 826-3928 or at the door. HSUMusic.blogspot.com



A LITTLE COWARD, A LITTLE CHRISTIE Jon Edwards as Jack and Toodie Boll as Bridgit, an Irish maid with a macabre interest in murder.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

NORTH COAST REPERTORY THEATRE

EUREKA – The North Coast Repertory Theatre (NCRT) continues its 31st season with the comedy *Death By Design: A Comedy With Murder* by Rob Urbinati.

The play is a mix of the brilliant wit of Noel Coward with the intricate plotting of Agatha Christie. Set during a weekend in an English country manor in 1932, *Death by Design* is a delightful and mysterious mash-up of two of the greatest English writers of all time. When one of the guests at the manor is murdered, it’s left to Bridgit, the feisty Irish maid with a macabre interest in homicide, to solve the crime. *Death by Design* is more than homage — it’s a new classic!

The production is directed by Scott Malcolm. Now based in Humboldt County, Malcolm has been involved with theatre for sixty years, first as a professional actor, and, for the past thirty years, as a director and acting coach. Malcolm says he enjoys the way this play “merges the styles of Two Masters of their own genre, Noel Coward (drawing room comedy) and Agatha Christie (murder mystery), creating an irresistible cast of characters and placing them in an irresistible set of circumstances to allow for the creation of irresistible havoc.”

The cast includes Toodie Boll, Jon Edwards, Anders Carlson, Jacqui Cain, An-

thony De Page, Gavin Lyall, Taylen Winters and Kate Hayley. Scenery design is by Anthony De Page; lighting design by Liz Uhazy; and costume design by Laura Rhinehart. Lucas Hylton will stage-manage the production.

Death By Design opens at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 26 with an opening night gala that includes a champagne reception after the show. As is traditional at NCRT, this performance serves as a benefit for the cast and crew. All seats for opening night are \$16.

The performance of Friday, March 27 benefits the Arcata Arts Institute; tickets are \$20. The performance of Saturday, March 28 benefits Temple Beth El; tickets are \$20.

Regular ticket price of \$16 for general admission and \$12 for students and seniors begins on Friday, April 3. The play is suitable for ages 13 and older.

The run continue Fridays and Saturdays through April 18. There will be one additional regular Thursday performance on April 16. All evening performances begin at 8 p.m. There will be two matinee performances at 2 p.m. on Sundays March 29 and April 12.

NCRT is located at 300 Fifth Street, Eureka. For reservations, group rates, or more information, call (707) 442-NCRT (6278) or visit ncrt.net.

Journey though the lens with Mo Hollis

EUREKA – For over a decade, Mo Hollis, media director for Seventh Generation Fund, has traveled to remote Native American reservations documenting the work of grassroots organizations, filmed at the United Nations and has worked with non-profit organizations in helping them tell their story through video. On Thursday March 26, the Local Filmmakers Night screening series will feature Hollis’ work at the Eureka High School Lecture Hall, 1915 J St., Eureka.

From the use of standard

definition cameras, iPads, Gopros and smartphones to new powerful tools like DSLR video cameras, Hollis will share his “Journey through the Lens,” show of short pieces of his work and share some of his most profound lessons learned in the field.

Local Filmmakers Night, a collaboration between Access Humboldt, Humboldt-Del Norte Film Commission and Eureka High School Media Club, is a screening series that supports and promotes the local film community. These events offer an inside look

at the filmmaking process by encouraging the filmmakers to share their challenges and learning.

Following the screening, attendees can enjoy a Q & A session with the filmmaker, movie trivia, prizes and a reception at the adjacent Access Humboldt’s Community Media Center.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Screening starts at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person and all are welcome to attend.

(707) 476-1798, info@accesshumboldt.net, accesshumboldt.net, film-humboldtelnorte.org

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'BEE'ST OF LUCK, COLTON Zane Middle School student Colton Johnson recently received an invitation to go to Fresno to compete in the state's Geographic Bee championship, sponsored by the National Geographic Society (NGS), beginning on March 27. Johnson started participating in the bees as a student at Cutten Elementary and was Winship's champion last year. He is competing for a chance to represent California in the national championship, with a prize of a \$50,000 college scholarship, lifetime membership in the NGS and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Galapagos Islands. As it has for a number of years, the Humboldt Branch of the American Association of University Women sponsored the bee in local schools.

Whiskers is waiting

Stopped by Humboldt Pet Supply lately? Located at 145 G St., they work with Companion Animal Foundation in a variety of ways to help local pets.

Right now, Whiskers and Leonard are lounging around the store awaiting their forever homes. Whiskers is a 1-year-old black female with white toes, belly and mustache. Her buddy Leonard is a few months younger with a long black coat.

Drop by to visit and grab a catnip pillow, made by CAF volunteers as a fund-raiser for

the adoption room.

At the thrift store in Sunny Brae, come visit three puppies and two cats from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Check out our Facebook page for photos of all available animals.

All animals at CAF are spayed or neutered and up-to-date on routine vaccinations prior to adoption. For more information, email cafanimals@gmail.com, visit cafanimals.org, check out Companion Animal Foundation on

Facebook or call (707) 826-PETS (7387).



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ACROSS

1. Exposés

6. Modify

11. Safe investments, for short

14. "...to reap and ___ to sow..."

15. Craze

16. Mauna ___

17. Popular TV host of the fifties and sixties

19. Beard of grain

20. Receive

21. Gambler's destination

22. Lending a hand to

24. Toadies

26. Petty officer, for short

28. "___ Wonderful Life"

30. Pretense

33. Cries

36. Addict's need, for short

38. Denial

39. Adam's grandson

40. Hole-in-one makers

41. To be in Paris

42. From ___ Z

43. Frighten

44. Ascends

45. Lucille Ball or Debra Messing

47. Ending for mob or old

49. Shade tree

51. Greek letters

55. Pass

57. Highest: pref.

59. Last queen of Spain

60. Vehicle

61. Popular comedy team of past decades

64. Mich.'s neighbor

65. Mythological giant

66. Diminutive endings

67. Musical notes

68. French student's milieu

69. Cattleman's rope

DOWN

1. Loose

2. "___ Grows in Brooklyn"

3. Public disturbances

4. Earthbound bird

5. Confidences

6. King of Judah

7. Mr. Wayans

8. Santa ___, California

9. Very unfriendly fishes

10. Hailed vehicle

11. Insurance paper filers

12. Toward the ground

13. Warbled

18. Egg producers

23. Large dung beetle

25. Linear units

27. Colors, in Britain

29. Word with penny or video

31. "You wouldn't ___!"

32. Items with lids

33. Growler

34. Opening bet

35. Forests

37. Poet's word

40. Educational

41. St. Brigid's land

43. Able to be perceived

44. After a building

46. Fashionable

48. Having mixed emotions

50. Like a twang

52. Men

53. Home for a llama

54. Authority

55. Devilish

56. ___ Turner

58. Oldster's prop

62. American Indian

63. ___ loss for words

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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42				43						44				
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55	56						57	58				59		
60					61	62					63			
64					65					66				
67					68					69				

Solution in next week's Mad River Union

The weekly crossword is brought to you by

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McKMarch madness!

It's the month of March - which means complete madness. If you thought Homecoming was crazy, just wait until you see what we have in store for this month.

This week, the junior and senior classes have already started practice for Powder Puff, in which our varsity football players coach our junior and senior girls to play football. On Friday, March 27, the two classes will dive into battle to fight for the trophy and reign as this year's Powder Puff champions. The girls will have five-star cheerleaders - the junior and senior boys, of course!

Last year, the Jacked Juniors, class of 2015, took home the gold. Who knows who will fight to the top this year? The Justice League Juniors or the Shocking Seniors? Be sure to catch the craze on Friday at 6:30 p.m. on the Mack High football field. Be there!

After the game, soaked in mud and still energized from the fierce battle, students will enjoy the Sadie Hawkins dance. This dance is all country and girls and boys will kick it in their cowboy boots. There will be line dancing, honky-tonking and yee-hawing! This dance is special because it is the girl's role to ask the boy to the dance. The



CHESIREE KATTER
❖ PANTHER REPORT

Precious Amber & Rocko

Jean Durbin

SPECIAL TO THE UNION

MCKINLEYVILLE - Two kitties at the county shelter have been looking for love for some time.

Amber is a beautiful young girl who has been waiting for over nine months for a great forever home. Shelter staff and volunteers are amazed that this interesting, quiet, easy to have around and gorgeous kitty has not yet been adopted. The only reason they can imagine for her still being here is that she must be waiting for someone just right... maybe you?

Amber is young, perhaps two or three years old, quiet, playful, gentle, curious, healthy, congenial in a reserved way, gets along well with other kitties and likes to be around people. She has a medium-long silky, shiny black coat and light yellow green eyes that

are almost magical in their beauty. You can meet Amber and see for yourself what she has to offer at the shelter.

They have a whole slew of black kitties. These wait the longest to be adopted, regardless of any other considerations such as age, personality, coat and sex. So, if Amber's not quite right for you, consider visiting the other adoptable kitties.

One you might fall quickly in love with is Rocko. This sweet boy has not had an easy life and was recently confiscated. He is adjusting to more normal circumstances very nicely. He is polite, gentle, quiet and loves to be gently petted and cradled in your arms. He is about eight years young and is a ruggedly handsome guy. He is



Amber



Rocko

bunking with three other kitties and seems to be happy to have them around.

If you would like to give the sweetest boy in the world a peaceful home life where he can relax and be content, meet Rocko; he will not disappoint!

You can meet both Amber, Rocko and the other dozen plus fabulous felines at the Humboldt County Animal Shelter at 980 Lycoming Ave. in McKinleyville Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Phone during business hours (707) 840-9132 for more information.

Riley and Maisy, like two peas in a pod

Redwood Pals Rescue (RPR) has been busy, busy, busy over the past two weeks! With the surge of incoming dogs at the shelter mid-month, space became very tight and rescue dogs, or dogs that were not being considered for adoption through the shelter, needed to move out or face possible euthanasia.

Fortunately, we had several individuals and families step up to foster dogs and with the help of other local rescuers, were able to create quite a bit of space at the shelter. Not only do foster homes give these dogs a second chance, often just getting away from the noise and stress of the kennels allows them to really shine!

Last week's featured dog, Bruno, has now shown himself to be goofy and playful, as well as great around livestock, cats and another big male dog. Bounder, another recent feature, has had a very similar story and has had the added bonus of doing great with young children.

We can always use foster homes for our rescue dogs; please email redwoodpalsrescue@gmail.com or call (707) 839-9692 for more information.

One of our Redwood Pals dogs is Riley. Riley is a young male Dutch Shepherd/Pit Bull Terrier cross. He is a compact little guy, probably around 45 pounds, but big on enthusiasm and spirit.



Riley

Riley loves to run and play. He shares his space with fellow RPR dog, Draco, and the two of them have a lot of fun together. Riley has attended some training classes and has been a good student. He was very popular at the Pet Fair last fall at the Farm Store, playing with all the other dogs in the open dog area.

Riley is in one of our garage kennels and is ready to move into a real home (which would also open up space for the next dog that needs our help). He is house-trained, neutered and current on his vaccinations. To meet Riley for possible foster or adoption, please contact us at the email or phone number listed above.

The shelter has a female version of Riley in pretty Maisy. Maisy is also just over a year old. She has a beautiful dark brindle coat and very cute ears that come together over her head.

Maisy is very eager to please and loves attention. She also likes to run and play ball in the play yard. Her leash manners have been steadily improving and would be even better with the more consistent training that a home situation could offer to her.

Maisy is friendly with other dogs and loves people. She sits nicely to have her leash put on and taken off, without bouncing around the kennel. This isn't always easy for dogs that may only get walked every other day, but she is very patient.

Maisy is spayed, micro-chipped and current on vaccinations. To meet this lovely girl, stop in at the Humboldt County Animal Shelter at 980 Lycoming Ave. in McKinleyville or call (707) 840-9132 for more information.



Maisy

Barn Cats Available

Feral cats will work for you as natural rodenticides on your farm. These cats have lived in the wild and are avid rodent hunters. They have been spayed/neutered and fully vaccinated. All they need is shelter to bear the elements* and daily food and water. Chemical rodenticides are harmful to human health and to the environment. Avoid using toxics by adopting a feral cat or two to put to work on your farm. If you are interested in adopting, contact Jan Carr at (707) 672-9947.



*These cats must be kept enclosed in some form of shelter for approximately one month in order to grow accustomed to their new homes.



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Births

Mad River Community Hospital announces these recent arrivals to our community

McCovey, Clint Daniel, Feb. 11, 2015, to Lillian Davis and William McCovey Busby, Demarcus Arnez-Dene, Feb. 14, 2015, to Jessica Mills and Dene Busby Jr. Dixon, Anjyleena-Grace Dawn, Feb. 16, 2015, to Rebecca and Jonathon Dixon Seckman, Presley Jane, Feb. 19, 2015, to Hayley and Christopher Seckman Zeigler, Tallulah Emma Stardust, Feb. 19, 2015, to Melissa Zeigler, Melissa Skelton, Amarie Lorraine Irene, Feb. 21, 2015, to Samantha Crain and John Skelton

Humboldt County Vital Records at the Public Health Dept. announces these recent departures from our community

Deaths

Reiswig, Donald Ray, of McKinleyville, April 8, 1932 – Feb. 5, 2015
Williams, Kirk Robert, of Arcata, Feb. 15, 1955 – Feb. 5, 2015
Winkle, Patricia Joyce, of McKinleyville, Nov. 4, 1933 – Feb. 6, 2015
Gunner, Leatur Marilyn, of McKinleyville, Nov. 1, 1936 – Feb. 8, 2015
Skaggs, Jean Lorayne, or McKinleyville, Sept. 9, 1925 – Feb. 8, 2015
Blenkinsop, Dialma Mary Louise, of Blue Lake, Feb. 26, 1925 – Feb. 9, 2015
Madison, Teresa Annette, of Arcata, Nov. 1, 1951 – Feb. 9, 2015
Palmer, Beatrice Evelyn, of Arcata, Oct. 30, 1921 – Feb. 10, 2015
Hardy, Ruth Esther, of McKinleyville, May 12, 1914 – Feb. 10, 2015
Brightwell, Pamela Ann, of Samoa, March 6, 1947 – Feb. 12, 2015
Baker, Johnny Cecil, of McKinleyville, July 16, 1947 – Feb. 13, 2015
Pettit, Robert Mark, of Arcata, July 25, 1928 – Feb. 13, 2015
Joseph, Thomas Army, of Hoopa, Oct. 1, 1943 – Feb. 14, 2015
Zickuhr, Randal Melvin, of Arcata, July 29, 1950 – Feb. 15, 2015
Hudspeth, Gertrude Jeanne, of Trinidad, Feb. 29, 1924 – Feb. 16, 2015
Pelroy, Lucille Charlotte, of McKinleyville, Feb. 13, 1921 – Feb. 17, 2015
McConkey, David Joe, of Arcata, Feb. 15, 1949 – Feb. 20, 2015
Lewis, Kendra Paige Leialoha, of Blue Lake, June 18, 1995 – Feb. 21, 2015
Magnatta, Faith Marilyn, of Arcata, Oct. 30, 1979 – Feb. 24, 2015
Sehicm Fahrija, of Arcata, May 13, 1942 – Feb. 24, 2015
Kornberg, Scott C., of Arcata, April 9, 1957 – Feb. 26, 2015
Burton, Stephen Elijah, of Hoopa, Oct. 28, 1989 – Feb. 27, 2015
Bramlett, Aaron James, of Arcata, May 7, 1984 – March 5, 2015
Beeson, Marilouise, of Hoopa, Dec. 1, 1919 – March 14, 2015
Cabalar, Julius, of Bayside, Feb. 28, 1922 – March 15, 2015

OBITUARY

Ryan Kennedy 1988 – 2015

Ryan Kennedy was born in Redding, Calif. on Sept. 29, 1988 and passed on March 12, 2015 in a tragic motorcycle accident in San Francisco on his way to work.

Our beloved son, brother and friend was humorous, adventurous, athletic, profound, reserved and intelligent. He had a way of making people feel at ease. He was a joy to be around and developed a philosophy about life early on that showed his respect for the world around him and all those in it.

Ryan attended elementary school at Equinox followed by North Coast Preparatory Academy in Arcata. He made lifelong friends in Humboldt. Among these are James, Justin, Sterling, Mac and Ross, all of whom hiked the Trinity Alps with Ryan.

Ryan was creative and excelled in the arts. He received a full-ride scholarship to UCLA where he was a political science major and maintained a 4.0 GPA. He decided to take a break and moved to San Francisco where he lived on a sailboat at Pier 39 with his good friend James Forrest. He planned to continue his higher education and hoped to obtain a law degree.

Ryan's interests included movies, film-making, music, video games, backpacking, computers and cosmology to name of few.

Ryan's family feels he passed with a full heart. He had a home in the city with friends. He had a passion for riding motorcycles that led to a wonderful job in Marin



at the Ducati and Triumph motorcycle dealership.

Ryan is survived by his parents Patrick and Melanie Kennedy of McKinleyville, sisters Terra (Josh) Andrews of San Francisco and Nicole Maki of McKinleyville, grandparents Jerry Carlsen and Joanne Crum, aunts Kimberly (Charles) Richion, Carrie Carlsen, uncle Rod (Caren) Carlsen and cousins Christie Coleman, Brian and Scott Carlsen. Ryan was especially fond of his new nephew Ronan Andrews.

We feel that instead of flowers, Ryan would have preferred a donation to a charity of your choice in Ryan's name. Please visit his Facebook memorial page at [facebook.com/Ryankennedymemorialpage](https://www.facebook.com/Ryankennedymemorialpage).

The Seaside Village grows yet more enchanting

The Native Plant and the Historic Gardens surrounding Trinidad Museum are bursting with spring life and beauty and the vernal pond is full of Pacific chorus and red-legged frog tadpoles.

Garden Chair Jill Mefford invites visitors to enjoy the new and mature planting as well as the beautifully and functionally placed driftwood around the pond that Ingrid Bailey and Amy Ziegler designed, hauled and worked on for weeks.

Jim McLaughlin recently resurfaced and tamped the wide decomposed granite pathways installed last year. Charley Netow built the long-awaited garden shed behind Trinidad Library and the under-construction Trinidad Coastal Land Trust gallery/office. The Ben B. Cheney

Foundation contributed greatly to garden improvements.

Jill, Ingrid, Amy, Virginia Waters, Laraine Cook, Claire Perricelli and Carl and Maisa Kalb continue to contribute time and energy weeding, planting, nurturing and making the gardens beautiful for all to enjoy, all day, every day.

Jill encourages new volunteers who love the outdoors and gardening to contact her at (707) 677-0355 about ongoing garden needs.



HOME ON THE LOG Pacific chorus frogs and red-legged frogs flourish in Trinidad Museum's Native Plant Garden vernal pond.

PHOTOS BY JIM AND VIRGINIA WATERS

Humboldt Kitchen-Aires at Big Lagoon School

The Humboldt Kitchen-Aires, nine senior citizens who make music from every day kitchen implements and generate smiles wherever they go, will entertain Big Lagoon School students on Thursday, March 26 at 10:30 a.m. in the school gym. Guests are welcome.

Hemingway Hann Duoet

Vocalist Dee Hemingway and guitarist Eric Hann will

perform at Lighthouse Grill in Saunders Shopping Center on Sunday, March 29 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Trinidad Lions Breakfast March 29

Trinidad Lions Club members will serve breakfast on Sunday, March 29 from 8 to 11 a.m. in the Trinidad School cafeteria. The breakfast menu includes either pancakes and eggs with ham or sausage or biscuits and gravy with eggs. Juice and drinks are included in the adult price of \$6, with children dining for \$3.

Hundreds of paperback and hardback books, including children's books, also are on sale each month for 25 to 50 cents. Donations of paperback novels always appreciated. Proceeds from Trinidad Lions breakfasts support many local school and community programs.

Learn About Trinidad's most beautiful access ways

Trinidad Coastal Land Trust Past President Ben Morehead will show slides of some of Trinidad's well-known and lesser-known coastal trails and conservation easements along with future plans, including invasive species removal projects, on Thursday, March 26, at 6:30 p.m., at Trinidad Town Hall. Ben is a dynamic presenter. All are invited, and there is no charge.

Two Town Hall fitness classes

Carrie Peyton Dahlberg leads Gentle Yoga classes every Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Trinidad Town Hall. Call (707) 677-0377 for details.

Foundation Training takes place on Mondays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to noon. The class is designed to relieve back and joint pain, improve athletic and performance and prevent injuries. For more information, call (707) 845-0644.

Spanish Exploration history classes

Trinidad Museum Society will present a series of three Spanish Exploration Classes at Trinidad Library on Wednesdays April 15, 22 and 29 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The first session will focus on the early Spanish voyages of Cermeno, Vizcaino and Perez before the landing in Trinidad by Heceta on the frigate Santiago and Bodega on the schooner Sonora in 1775. The Spanish galleon trade between Acapulco and Manila is part of the story. So is the effect of Englishman Sir Francis Drake's 1579 Pacific voyage and Russian voyages from the north. The voyages of Cook and Vancouver will be touched on as well.

King Carlos III of Spain, who reigned from 1759 to 1788, will be the subject of the second session. An enlightened



NATURAL BEAUTY Driftwood embellishments around pond are the work of garden volunteers Ingrid Bailey and Amy Ziegler.

monarch and a contemporary of King George III of England, he relied heavily on his viceroys in New Spain to make decisions on sea and land voyages and exploration along the Pacific. But he also was vitally interested in competition from England, Russia, and even France, Holland and Portugal, in dominating sea routes, ports and trade.

New Spain (Mexico and California) land expeditions, supply voyages along the Pacific and the settling of the 21 California missions from 1769-1823 will complete the series with emphasis on how and why Spain lost control of California to Mexico and then to America.

Patti Fleschner, TMS president, will lead the classes, which are free of charge. Museum members and docents are encouraged to attend. The Trinidad Library Sustaining Fund is a sponsor. Reservations would be helpful; call (707) 677-3816 or email baycity@sonic.net.

Email Patti at baycity@sonic.net.

Wesleyan Church of the Redwoods

Pastor Chuck Clark
Prime Time Connection at 9 a.m.
Coffee/fellowship at 10 a.m.
Traditional worship at 10:30 a.m.
Bible Study 7 p.m. Wednesday
839-2625
1645 Fischer Rd., McKinleyville



On The House...



BEWARE OF HOME ODORS

Be careful of odors in your home. If your family room smells stale or your cat or dog has left a distinctive odor in the hallway, the important thing is to remove the root cause of the odor rather than to merely treat the symptoms. Smells have a powerful effect on the way people react to a house, and no amount of room freshener or vanilla on the light bulbs can mask a serious odor problem. In fact, such remedies may draw attention to the problem. We have seen homes with an odor problem languish unsold on the market for months or sell for thousands of dollars less than comparable homes in the neighborhood.

If you think that you may have a problem, talk candidly with us as your real estate agents. We can offer some constructive suggestions, and perhaps refer you to a professional who can help banish H.O. from your home!

For professional advice on all aspects of buying or selling real estate, call Joanie Frederick, Broker, Azalea Realty, (707) 362-0144, or check out our website at www.azalearealty.com.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Societal unraveling accelerates amid thrown rocks and puppy

• **Monday, March 2 3:29 a.m.** A woman wearing a surgical mask banged on a door in Benjamin Court, muttering something about a gun.

• **9:44 a.m.** Someone dropped a car off for service at a Fifth Street auto repair facility, then refused to pick it up despite multiple calls over three weeks.

• **2:26 p.m.** Slouchabout smokers at Ninth and J streets got louder and louder until a police officer came by. One unwise unrulian resisted arrest, and wound up in the Pink House, but only briefly.

• **5:32 p.m.** A woman observed a man wearing green sweatpants and a backpack digging a hole with a shovel along Giuntoli Lane. When he saw that she was looking at him, he said, “Keep walking.”



• **7:41 p.m.** Another man in the same area entertained mini-mart personnel with incoherent ramblings about Batman.

• **9:58 p.m.** A man reported that someone had posted his photo online, claiming that he had started fires in Fortuna.

• **Wednesday, March 4 6:20 p.m.** Someone left several firearms in an unlocked vehicle on C Street. Thieves took it from there.

• **Thursday, March 5 11:29 a.m.** Served with an eviction notice, a soon-to-be former H Street resident reacted with a bout of rock throwing.

• **Friday, March 6 8:11 a.m.** A man with a clothespin on his nose wandered in the Alliance Road roadway, muttering to himself.

• **9:48 a.m.** A green-panted man

was observed throwing a puppy at 14th and J streets.

• **5:28 p.m.** After a large traveler encampment was cleaned up at Giuntoli Lane and Boyd Road, campers returned to re-crap up the site with shopping carts, shoplifted containers and bottles, clothes and etc.

• **6:25 p.m.** Several calls came in about people setting up camps here and there around town.

• **Saturday, March 7 8:07 p.m.** A Valley Westress said a neighbor man had yelled at her because he didn’t think she had looked behind her while she was backing up her car.

• **Sunday, March 8 10:41 a.m.** Four lonely goats were spotted a-wandering on West End Road.

• **Monday, March 9 11:09 a.m.** People keep leaving valuables in their unlocked cars, such as the

backpack on Ariel Way, with the usual vanishing result.

• **11:28 a.m.** An S Street elementary school playground was found furnished with cigarette butts, bandages and hydrogen peroxide.

• **Tuesday, March 10 4:46 p.m.** Several vehicles in an Alliance Road parking lot were found with gas caps removed and left on the ground.

• **Wednesday, March 11 8:50 a.m.** Among the many, many calls about campers was one about a guy sleeping in the alcove of a children’s services building on Ninth Street, then peeing on the building.

• **11 a.m.** A man went into an I Street store and ate several items off the hot bar then stumbled drunkenly out.

• **Thursday, March 12 3:41 p.m.** A woman advertised for a caregiver on that bastion of wholesome ethical behavior known as

Craigslist. A woman responded, was interviewed and seemed eager to start work, but then never showed up. The caller was concerned for the woman’s well-being, as she had remarked that she likes to go for long walks at night in the forest and something may have happened to her. Then she called the would-be caregiver on her cell phone, she was very angry and said she would call the police and report her for harassment.

• **Saturday, March 14 4:36 a.m.** Travelers frolicked and whooped it up, one without benefit of trousers, in Janes Creek Meadows Park.

• **10:52 p.m.** A sort of anti-Ronald McDonald clad in black positioned himself at the drive-thru lane ordering speaker at a Valley West golden arches and panhandled the night away.

Lonely, dusty old smoke alarm cries out for love, gets it

ARCATA FIRE

ARCATA — Shortly before 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 19, Arcata Fire District responded to a possible residential structure fire in the 800 block of A Street in Arcata.

The initial dispatch indicated that there were multiple callers reporting smoke showing from the house.

The first arriving officer was at the house in less than two minutes and reported no smoke showing but there was a smoke alarm sounding inside the residence. The first engine crew made entry into the residence and determined that it was unoccupied. A second engine crew assisted with the internal search of the residence.

“As part of our search process we used our thermal imaging cameras (TIC) to see if there is fire in the walls of the structure,” said Captain Nate Padula. The activated smoke alarm was located in a bedroom on the second floor.

“It appears a buildup of dust in the



THERE FOR YOU It’s kind of encouraging to know that despite the madness of our modern age, something as trivial and erroneous as a cranky smoke alarm can bring a small army of caring professionals. KLH | UNION

smoke alarm is what caused the alarm to activate,” said Jenny Williamson, fire prevention specialist. After the smoke alarm

had been located, fire crews tested the alarms and replaced the batteries in the remaining smoke alarms on the second floor

of the residence.

This incident is a great reminder for people to clean their smoke alarms. Dust and dirt particles built up in and around the smoke alarm can cause nuisance alarms or false alarms.

Also, remember to change your batteries every six months and to test your smoke alarms monthly.

If your smoke alarms are 10 or more years old, you should replace them. You should also have a smoke alarm in every sleeping room, the adjoining hallway and one on each level of your home. It is best that your smoke alarms be interconnected so when one goes off, they all go off.

Fourteen personnel from Arcata Fire District responded, including one chief officer and staffing on two engines and one truck. Humboldt Bay Fire responded with one engine and a chief officer to provide coverage for the district and Arcata Police Department responded to assist with logistics.

That’s no way to treat your grandma

• **Thursday, March 12 5:11 p.m.** Over on Hayes Road in McKinleyville, someone dropped a loaded magazine with 11 live rounds of 9mm full metal jack ammunition. The clip was given to the Sheriff’s Office.

• **Friday, March 13 7:34 p.m.** Dillon Williams, who is suspected of using meth, was driving in a car with his grandmother. Williams decided to hit her up for some money, but when she declined to fund his habit, Williams got angry. He allegedly slammed his fist into the windshield, then kicked it until it cracked. When the grandmother got home in McKinleyville, she called the Sheriff’s Office. Williams was arrested on suspicion of vandalism.

• **Monday, March 16 9:47 p.m.** Under the World Largest Totem, a deputy observed a man and woman yelling at each other. When the deputy made contact with the man, Erick Boden, he could smell alcohol. Boden was teetering as he battled the force of gravity. He was argumentative and refused to comply with even the simplest of orders. Next stop:



Drunk tank.

• **Tuesday, March 17 2:59 a.m.** A man and his ex-girlfriend got into an argument over his visiting their daughter. When the man allegedly threatened to take the child, the woman and her daughter locked themselves in a bedroom. The man became upset and kicked in the door. He was gone by the time deputies arrived at the home on Anderson Avenue in McKinleyville.

• **Wednesday, March 18 8 a.m.** Deputies were dispatched to the McKinleyville Shopping Center where a man was creating some sort of disturbance, but when they arrived he was already gone. They searched the area and located the suspect down the street near Opie’s Fine Cars. When he spotted the deputies, he ran across the street dodging cars. Deputies finally cornered the man near the Taco Bell, where he acted aggressively and told deputies that he thought they were aliens dressed in costumes. When he tried to flee, deputies brought him down to the ground and cuffed him. He was taken to Semper Virens for a 72-hour evaluation.



SENSITIVE STREWAGE Mail left on the ground, absorbing moisture. PHOTOS BY ROGER ECKART | UNION

GC Road PO boxes burgled

MAD RIVER UNION
BAYSIDE — Golf Course Road residents woke up to find their curbside mailboxes rifled and their personal information strewn about the street Saturday morning. Wet mail in piles and lying at the base of open mailboxes is a disconcerting sight at any time.

A Bayside postal official agreed it was likely someone looking for cash. Tax documents, credit card statements and junk mail were in a wet pile under one resident’s tree. These were returned to the Post Office for redistribution.

APD noted the particulars and recommended contacting the Sheriff’s Office if residents outside the city limits were affected too.

One resident indicated that he had eliminated his street side postal box years ago after being frustrated by repeated thefts of mail. Another out walking his dog said “I’m glad I picked up my mail yesterday.”



LITTERTHUGS It’s a felony to tamper with mail.

GET OUTSIDE GEAR SALE

a fundraiser for Friends of the Dunes

Giant Used Outdoor Gear Sale

Sat. April 11, 11am-4pm

at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center

Donate / Consign gear NOW!

Drop off your gently used gear Mon. - Sat., 10am- 4pm at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center (220 Stamps Lane, Manila)

OR at Adventure’s Edge in Arcata or Eureka.

Consignment items only accepted at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center.

more info @ friendsofthedunes.org or 707-444-1397

Commission a Portrait of the Home You Love...

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Jay Brown	Joyce Jonte
Maggi Draper	Kathy O’Leary
Matt Filar	Alan Sanborn
Libby George	Patricia Sennott
Elizabeth Johnson	Sara Starr

Choose from a variety of sizes and mediums: photography, watercolor, color pencil, pastels, oils, ceramic tile, monotype.

Half the proceeds benefit Arcata House Partnership!

For more information: Jaffa Dugan, Coordinator, 707-822-3534, jaffa@humboldt1.com

www.ArcataHouse.org

WATERFRONT PLANNING AT THE COOKHOUSE Humboldt Bay Harbor Working Group (HBHWG) hosts commercial fisherman Ken Bates at its monthly educational lunch forum at the Samoa Cookhouse on the Samoa Peninsula today, March 25. Lunch will be served at noon followed by the educational talk. The guest speaker is Ken Bates, a resident of Eureka since 1970 and a commercial fisherman. As the owner and operator of Cloudburst Fishing Company, Bates specializes in commercial fishing boat building and fishing gear. Bates will educate the community about long-term waterfront planning and the Eureka General Plan Update as it relates to the interests of the fishing industry. The public is welcome to attend. RSVP at (707) 441-1974 or charles.been@yahoo.com. View information on HBHWG, past lunch topics and how new harbor jobs can be created through a unified master plan at humboldtworkingport.org.

TRINIDAD COASTAL LAND TRUST TALK
The Trinidad Coastal Land Trust owns or manages 17 different properties between Moonstone Beach and just south of Patrick's Point State Park. Many of these properties have trails to the beach that land trust volunteers develop and maintain. Watch the slide show and presentation by Ben Morehead, board member of the Trinidad Coastal Land Trust on Thursday, March 26 at Trinidad Town Hall. The free event starts at 6:30 p.m. Get to know the land trust board members, hear about volunteer opportunities, planned hikes to special spots and enjoy some superlative photography. (707) 496-3375, trinidadcoastallandtrust.org

SUNNY BRAE FOREST WORKDAY The City of Arcata's Environmental Services Department and the Humboldt Trails Council's Volunteer Trail Stewards invite you to a volunteer work day in the Sunny Brae Tract of the Arcata Community Forest on Saturday, March 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will pave the way for trail construction by clearing brush, transplanting ferns, scraping duff and moving larger tree limb segments in the trail corridor.

DUNES WORKMORN Volunteers are needed to help remove invasive plants

at the Ma-le'l Dunes Unit of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge on Saturday, March 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Gloves, tools and cookies will be provided. Wear closed-toed shoes and bring drinking water. Meet at the Ma-le'l Dunes north parking lot off of Young Lane in Manila, past the Gun Club. (707) 444-1397, info@friendsofthedunes.org

TAKE A CHILD OUTSIDE Celebrate Take a Child Outside Day and do some hands-on play-learning at the Arcata Marsh Interpretive Center at 569 South G St. on Saturday, March 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Families can enjoy activities along the 0.6 mile Log Pond Loop Trail, including making animal tracks, bird watching, making bird feeders and meeting a rescued raptor! Inside the Interpretive Center, teachers can meet environmental educators and learn about field trip, in-class presentation and funding opportunities. CREEC.org/region1, (707) 826-4479, ext. 3, Allison@CREEC.org

FOAM MARSH TOUR Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) is sponsoring a free tour of the Arcata Marsh & Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday, March 28 at 2 p.m. Meet leaders Jane and Richard Wilson at the Interpretive Center on South G Street for a 90-minute walk focusing on the ecology of the Marsh. Loaner binoculars available with photo ID. (707) 826-2359

SUNSET ON THE DUNES Sunset can be a magical time to experience and explore coastal dunes. Join Friends of the Dunes for a Happy Hour Sunset Walk on Saturday, March 28 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center. Spring flowers will be in bloom and the beach is always scattered with interesting wash-ups. Participants will return to the Nature Center to enjoy some light snacks and a sip of wine or soft drink. Cost is \$7 per person, with a 20 percent discount for Friends of the Dunes members and Manila residents. Meet at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, 220 Stamps Lane in Manila. Reserve a space by contacting info@friendsofthedunes.org or (707) 444-1397.

RNP FLINT RIDGE HIKE The Sierra Club North Group hosts a day hike in

Redwood National Park on the Flint Ridge Section of the Coastal Trail Sunday, March 29. This nine-mile loop contains a moderately-steep climb and descent. Starting near the site of the former Douglas Memorial Bridge, the hike will skirt an old log pond and ascend through magnificent redwood forest to ridge, then gradually drop to meet spur to backcountry campground, the lunch spot, with views through redwoods of coast below. Return by same route. Wear layers and hiking footwear; bring water and lunch. No dogs. Carpools meet at 8:30 a.m. at Ray's Food Place in Valley West, Arcata. Hikers meet at 10 a.m. at trailhead parking off Alder Camp Road near junction with Klamath Beach Road. Rain cancels. (707) 668-4275, mgroomster@gmail.com

SLOW SPEED MARSH TOUR Friends of the Arcata Marsh (FOAM) is sponsoring a free tour for those who love the Marsh and want to enjoy seeing it at a slower pace than regular Saturday tours on Tuesday, March 31 at 2 p.m. The tour lasts 45 to 60 minutes across even, level ground and is suitable to attendees of all ages who want to learn and like camaraderie. Meet at the first parking lot on South I Street in from Samoa Boulevard. This tour is held the last Tuesday of each month. (707) 822-3475

GET OUTSIDE GEAR SALE Friends of the Dunes is now accepting donations of gently used outdoor gear for the annual Get Outside Gear Sale, Saturday, April 11 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, located at 220 Stamps Lane in Manila. Admission is free, but a \$1 to \$5 sliding scale donation is requested. This fundraiser supports coastal education and conservation programs and is a great place to find deals on used and new gear while enjoying live music, food, beer and kids' activities. Gear is equipment and apparel used for anything that gets people outside, such as camping and backpacking gear, guides and maps, child carriers, bicycles, disc golf and more. Donate or consign clean and gently used items by dropping them off at the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, or bring them to Adventure's Edge in Arcata or Eureka and get a 15 percent off coupon to use at their stores. friendsofthedunes.org, (707) 444-1397

Sustainability project is topic of Friday Transition Humboldt Potluck at HAF

TRANSITION HUMBOLDT

EUREKA — The County of Humboldt was chosen as one of 15 communities in the country to take part in a pilot program called Transition Streets, and local leaders are now looking for volunteer households to become part of the national rollout and “Community Resilience Challenge” in May.

The success of this pilot and how others can now become involved is the topic of Transition Humboldt's next Community Gathering and Potluck, to be held Friday, March 27, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Emerson Room at the Humboldt Area Foundation on 363 Indianola Rd., Bayside.

The free gathering and potluck is open to the public. Members of the public who are interested are invited bring a dish to share and no alcohol. For more information, call Richard Lentz at (707) 601-7218.

The national program seeks to develop neighborhood participation that will result in less waste and a more sustainable lifestyle, organizers say. The program is being managed locally by Transition Humboldt, a group dedicated to a cleaner environment and wiser use of resources.

“It is a road map for saving money and having a smaller carbon footprint” said Richard Lentz, a key organizer of the group. He said the group applied for and was selected as a pilot community to test and give feedback on the program to prepare for the national rollout in May.

Lentz added that “We are a solid group of 12 people from several different neighborhoods in Humboldt County, each of us interested in having a positive impact on the environment and each other. We finished the pilot and now we are ready to help whole neighborhoods try out these sustainable living practices.” These practices include cutting household energy use, reducing water and waste and being more selective about the food we eat.

The program is set up so that a handful of neighbors get together for seven meetings, over the course of seven months, during which time they follow clear and easy steps from a user-friendly workbook.

Organizers say they are inspired by a model developed by Rob Hopkins, a teacher in the United Kingdom, who said, "If we wait for the government, it will be too little, too late; if we act as individuals, it will be too little, but if we act as communities, it might just be enough, just in time."

Transition Streets is a private, nonprofit initiative with no formal connection to municipal government. More information can be obtained at *Richard.lentz@yahoo.com*.

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Guest may only earn one entrance to the money machine per promotional day. Must be present to win. Winner has 3 minutes to arrive at drawing area once name is called.

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APRIL 1 - MAY 31, 2015 | DRAWING: MAY 31st

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More info at www.aedc1.org or
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Humboldt Bonsai Show & Demonstration

• March 28 & 29 •

WORKSHOPS at 10:30 a.m.

SATURDAY:
How to choose a nursery tree & the correct pot.

SUNDAY:
How to prune & root prune.

Finished Bonsais will be on display in our covered greenhouse area.

We will be serving free tea & cookies both days.



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**Department of
The Headwaters Human
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